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DECEMBER 7, 2000 [53.17]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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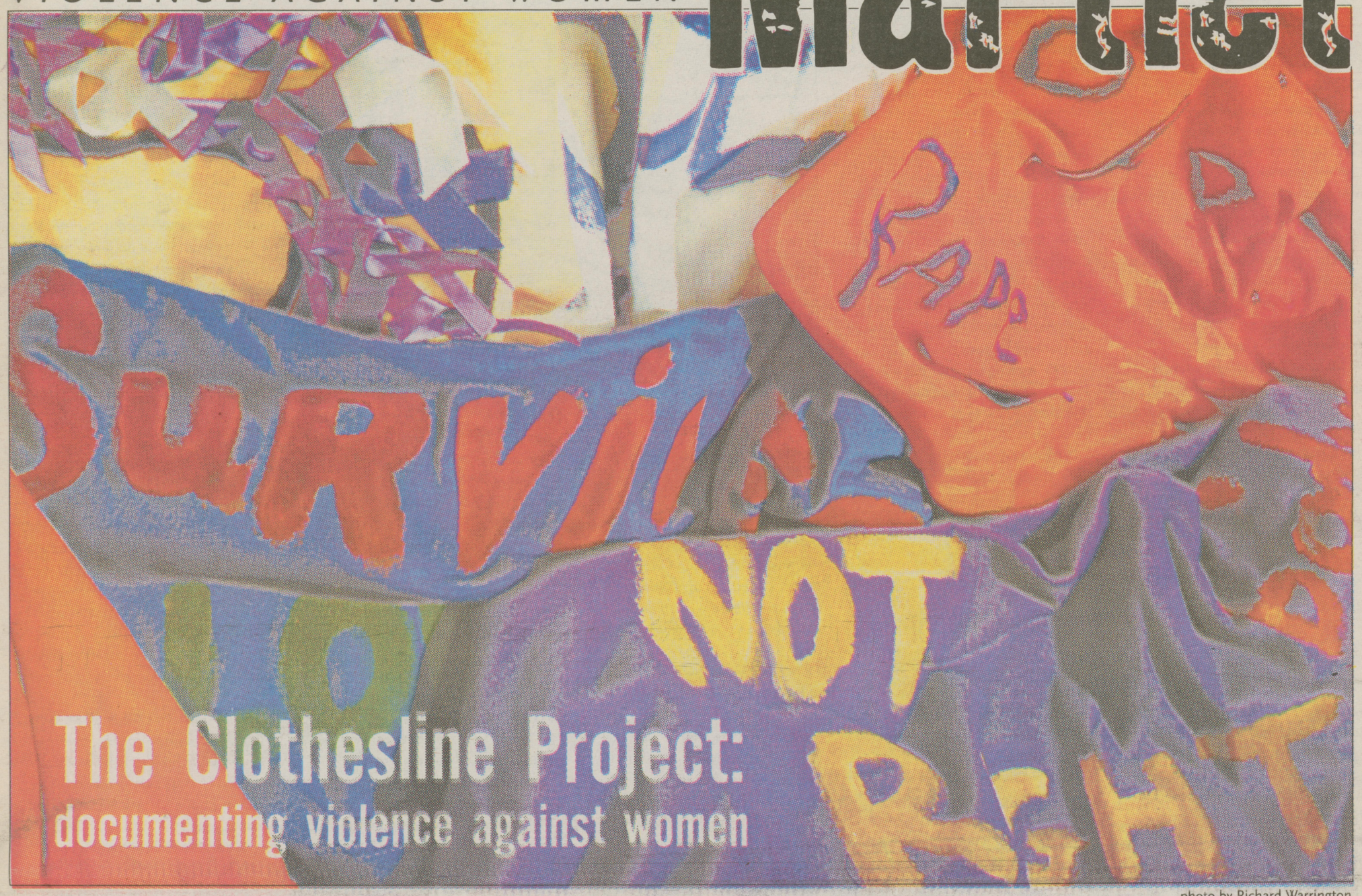

The Clothesline Project:
documenting violence against women

photo by Richard Warrington

Memorial sees one of the best turnouts ever

by Brenda Martin

The UVic community gathered for a candlelight vigil Fri., Dec. 1, to remember the deaths of the 14 women shot in Montréal Dec. 6, 1989.

T-shirts painted by local women who have survived violence, or by friends and family of survivors, hung on a clothesline at the vigil. They formed a backdrop that hung behind 14 female UVic engineering students in front of a crowd of at least 400 people.

"Today as we gather once more to remember, we pledge ourselves anew to take a stand against violence in all its forms," said UVic Chancellor Norma Mickelson.

United by the desire to live in a society where women can be safe, people at the vigil came with all sorts of intentions.

"I feel that as members of a society where violence against women occurs it is everyone's responsibility to stop it and remember. That's why I come," said Caitlin Warbeck, a third-year student at UVic.

The backdrop of t-shirts is part of the Clothesline Project, an awareness campaign that started in Massachusets to combat violence against women. The colours of the shirts represent the violence each woman suffered: red for sexual assault, yellow for battery or assault, blue for abuse or incest, purple for women attacked because of sexual orientation, and white for death as a result of violence.

Over 20 t-shirts were hung, with even more left over. The clothesline was too short to hold them all.

UVic's female engineers stood in front of the shirts holding red roses. They lit slim white candles in memory of the women from L'École Polytechnique.

> Each year a silent massacre occurs in Canada. I could spout statistics, all of them alarming, all day. But I will just read you one. One in two women in Canada experience sexual or physical violence.
>
> *Tom Owen*

Lilah Montague and Tom Owens, two second-year engineering students, talked about the cultural impact of the Montreal Massacre.

"I can study in any field that interests her. If I couldn't my thoughts would waste away," said Montague. "To remember but to not take action would be to dishonour their memories."

"Each year a silent massacre occurs in Canada. I could spout statistics, all of them alarming, all day. But I will just read you one. One in two women in Canada experience sexual or physical violence," said Owen. "Preparing for the speech, you look at what is going on and you recognize the magnitude of the problem."

"It's kind of sad that society doesn't take violence against women as seriously until there is some sort of extreme example. Unfortunately, this is also the experience of women who were attacked by friends or acquaintances. There is no permanent mark on their body and so they think their experience was not as 'bad,'" said Kelly Lee, a volunteer at the Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre.

"Weak people look for affirmation that there are people weaker than they are... Laws are effective after death. Cell phones are effective after an attack. Stalking laws only used after years of intimidation. We must recognize that it starts with us, not laws," said *Times Colonist* writer Jody Paterson.

"We can't allow something like this to happen again. Through this memorial we can let people know what happened," said Lilah Montague.

"All the boys [in UVic engineering] cherish the girls. I have never been discriminated against at school," she said. She was worried about discrimination in the workplace and recently went to a conference about it at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. The conference allayed some of her fears.

Eleven per cent of the students in the UVic engineering department are women, said Montague – a percentage lower than some because UVic focuses on mechanical, electrical and computer engineering. These types are statistically less popular with women than biological, chemical and environmental engineering.

While this year's showing was considered one of the strongest ever, Women's studies professor Debbie Yaffe said that the vigil is only a part of the larger struggle that should follow through all-year round. "Women are still more likely to be assaulted by a man that they know than not [at all]," she said.

Although Yaffe did not make it to the vigil she did say that while it is important to remember the deaths of the 14 women in Montréal she said it is equally important to remember the over 30 unsolved murders of prostitutes in Vancouver last year, deaths which are often overlooked. "It's like there are deserving and undeserving victims," she said.

"The potential for violence is always there and any one of us could have been a victim," she said. Yaffe reminded people to also celebrate the lives of women while they are alive.

Yaffe sees a strong role for men in countering violence against women. She explained that working together, men can encourage each other to squelch sexism and to shed societal conditioning about violence by not accepting it.

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Citizens counter fare-hike plan with demand for free transit

by Ben Isitt

While BC Transit is considering raising fares in the new year, some Victorians believe transit should be free.

Fifty people converged on the Saanich municipal council chambers Nov. 30 to tell the BC Transit Commission what they thought of a proposal to raise $3.1 million through a combination of raised fares and increased fuel and property taxes.

"There should be no fares," said Joan Russow, leader of the Green Party and a candidate in the recent federal election. "It should be free. Transportation is a right."

Many of those in attendance shared her views.

"We want to be encouraging the use of public transit and discouraging the use of cars," Allison Bowe said.

If the proposal is approved, a regular adult fare would increase April 1 from $1.75 to $2. The cost of a monthly bus pass would increase from $50 to $58.

"For a person on a limited income, it is not realistic to expect them to pay half their disposable income on a bus pass," said Kelly Gutard, from the Community Social Planning Council.

Ministry of Economic Security and Social Development employee Tony Gibb helps people on social assistance find work. "They can't afford an increase like this," he said.

Other speakers raised environmental concerns.

"Oil is going to peter out pretty soon," Yves Pejard said, suggesting that alternatives to car use need to be expanded.

Victoria city councillor Art Vander Berg, the first Green candidate elected to municipal office in Canada, said transit users "are paying disproportionately for roads through property taxes."

He said that in the context of global climate change, Victoria should act now rather than wait 20 years when penalties will be imposed on regions that fail to provide services to reduce pollution.

photo by Maia Green

Will a proposed fare hike hurt transit use?

Joe Richards presented BC Transit spokesperson Chris Foord with a poster he salvaged in 1949 which maps 11 different streetcar routes that once criss-crossed Victoria. In the wake of the Second World War, transit systems across North America were bought up and dismantled to pave the way for car use.

The system that is left in Victoria today is considered by many to be ineffective.

"I take severe offense with the fact I pay a transit levy for a system I don't use," Saanich taxpayer Ken Patterson said. "I don't take the bus because it can't take me where I want to go. Free transit would be wonderful. That's not the real world... I'm getting real tired of you stealing out of my wallet," he told the Commission.

But other homeowners said they didn't mind an increase in their transit levy.

"I would rather see me squeezed for it than them," said Paul Phillips.

Noel Black echoed this sentiment. "I think the transit system needs to be expanded, and I don't mind paying for it."

A bus driver for BC Transit who attended the hearing defended the system.

"What I observe out there on the road is a lot of wasted time and resources, a lot of stress and anger, and a lot of pollution," said Abbass Mohammadi, a founding member of the Citizens for Affordable Transit.

"We all suffer and we all pay for it," Mohammadi said. "Why not find a way of paying for an affordable transit system. And when I say affordable, I mean that everyone can afford it. Free."

Chris Foord, BC Transit's manager of marketing and communications, said people within his organization were uneasy about a potential fare increase.

"A fare increase will always cost you customers," Foord said. "Ultimately, do we need to do more on property and less on fares? That was the sentiment that was expressed at the meeting."

He said the transit commission, comprised of five local mayors and a councillor from Saanich and Victoria, is meeting Dec. 12 and needs to make a decision by early January so changes can be implemented for April 1.

While UVic students are not directly affected by the fare hike, paying a mandatory $44 per semester for a universal transit pass (U-PASS), Foord said a $2 U-Pass increase will go to referendum in the spring.

Foord thought the advocates of free transportation who attended the hearing "put their case together very well... There were some very good speakers."

One of these was Chris Scott.

"Individualism is not big enough to solve global problems," Scott said. "We need to start seeing ourselves as a society. I hope Victoria will for once live up to its name, and hand the people and the environment a victory."

> A fare increase will always cost you customers.
>
> *Chris Foord, BC Transit*

BC Transit has proposed raising $2 million through a 13 per cent fare increase, and another $1.1 million by increasing the transit levy paid by homeowners by $6 per year, from an average of $27 to $33. This follows the current formula where fares account for 60 per cent of revenue compared with 40 per cent from property tax.

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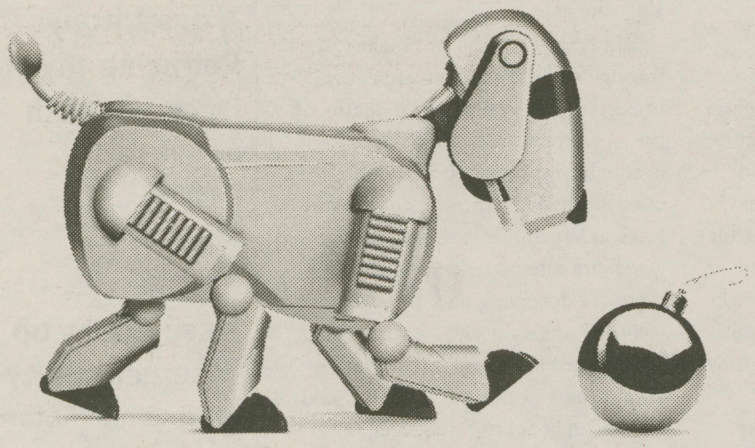

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Did justice prevail for Anthany Dawson?

by Chris Westendorf

Has justice been served in Victoria?

For at least one family struggling with the death of their son Anthany, the answer is no.

"We have to press on," said Bob Kennedy upon hearing the decision of a coroner's jury examining the death of Anthany Dawson. "It's not over yet." Kennedy covered the inquest for the Turtle Island Native Network.

The Dawson case has been a source of ongoing debate within the community since the death of the 25-year-old First Nations artist last year. Dawson stripped off his clothes and ran into traffic on Oak Bay Avenue, moaning and holding his head. A police officer arrived on the scene and quickly restrained him. Some witnesses say the officer punched Dawson several times. He was handcuffed, and the officer asked a 250-pound bystander to sit on him. Dawson was then loaded in an ambulance, face down. He lapsed into cardiac arrest.

Anthany was taken off life support by family members two days later, on Aug. 13, 1999.

Aboriginal groups in Victoria as well as the Community Coalition Against Racism believe Anthany was treated like a "drunk Indian," and that proper measures were not taken to treat his medical crisis. Dawson suffered from CPT-1, a rare metabolical disorder. The inquest began in July only to be delayed mid-August pending the completion of a medical report into his illness. The proceedings resumed mid-November at the Leonardo DaVinci centre, and Dec. 1 the jury ruled that Anthany's death was accidental, caused by:

"Anoxic Encephalopathy with tonsillar herniation due to restraint-associated cardiac arrest, agitated delirum and hyperthermia due to episodic metabolic crisis CPT-1 and positional asphyxia."

The Dawson family and First Nations groups are unhappy with the verdict.

> We think it's outrageous. It's another example of how indigenous life is dispensable. The verdict does not address the problem of structural racism.
>
> *Shana Robinson, Native Students' Union*

"We think it's outrageous," said Shana Robinson, a member of the UVic Native Students' Union. "It's another example of how indigenous life is dispensable. We believe that if it had been the exact same situation with a non-native, this would never have happened. The verdict does not address the problem of structural racism."

The jury made various recommendations to hospitals and paramedics on how they should deal with such crises in the future. These include initiating a First Nations liaison worker program, properly training staff, and giving special bracelets to those at risk. As well, the jury recommended paramedics be given a clear definition on transporting patients, including placing the patient on a stretcher.

The coroner's jury found that Anthany's handling by paramedics played a role in his death.

The jury was less vocal, however, about police conduct. Only minimal recommendations were made to the Victoria Police Department, despite the fact that eight witnesses testified seeing the officer punch Anthany.

"I'm surprised that when you have eight witnesses testify about a death, the coroner and jury made no reference to it," Bob Kennedy said. "Eight citizens testified. Are they all wrong? Could they all be mistaken?"

But lawyer Chris Consadine, counsel for Const. Sheldon, the officer who arrested and who some say punched Anthany repeatedly, disagrees with Kennedy. He contends that the witness didn't actually say punching motions where made. A "use of force" expert from the Victoria city police testified that Sheldon's motions were misinterpreted as punching and were actually consistent with the "around bar restraint move," a restraining method police are trained to use.

"It was made clear that there was absolutely no substance at all to that," Consadine said. "A pathologist showed none of the injuries were due to forceful blows or punches. Scientific evidence showed no forceful blows."

Even so, the inquest has failed to provide closure for the family and the Aboriginal community.

"My understanding is that the Dawson family is looking at another civil suit," Robinson said. "We're looking to address this unfair treatment of aboriginals."

On Dec. 8 at 6 p.m., a fundaiser will be held at the Songhees Bighouse Kitchen on Admirals road. On Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m., the Fernwood Community Association (1923 Fernwood) plays host to "No Justice, No Peace," linking Leonard Peltier's struggle for justice with that of the Dawson family. Proceeds go to the Anthany Dawson Legal Defense Fund.

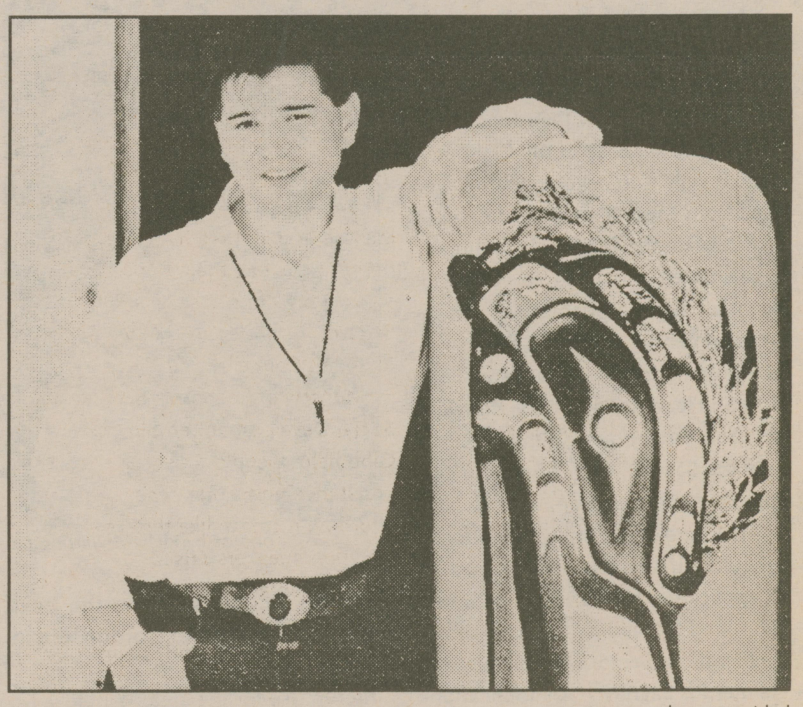

photo provided

Anthany Dawson, Sept. 21, 1968 - Aug. 13, 1999

NEWS ANALYSIS

Leonard Peltier:
A political prisoner in the belly of the beast

by Andre Bueno

For many of us around the globe, the United States is seen and revered as "the pillar of democracy," where people can freely express their opinions.

Little do people know that a country that claims to be democratic has the highest incarceration rate in the world.

The US government controls and dictates what will make the news, and what will not. They police ideologies and silence dissent.

Political imprisonment is a critical issue in the United States. There are over 500 political prisoners – most of whom we don't hear about. Someone who is rarely mentioned but has spent a quarter of a century in the American prison system is Leonard Peltier.

A member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), a follower of the Ghandian principle of non-violent civil disobedience, Leonard has been in jail for 25 years, for a crime many believe he did not commit.

On June 26, 1975 agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrived at the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota. They were allegedly there to track down a youth who stole a $25 pair of boots, but witnesses say that after parking their vehicles they began shooting at will. Along with the FBI, agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) laid seige to the AIM camp. Two FBI agents were shot dead in the firefight.

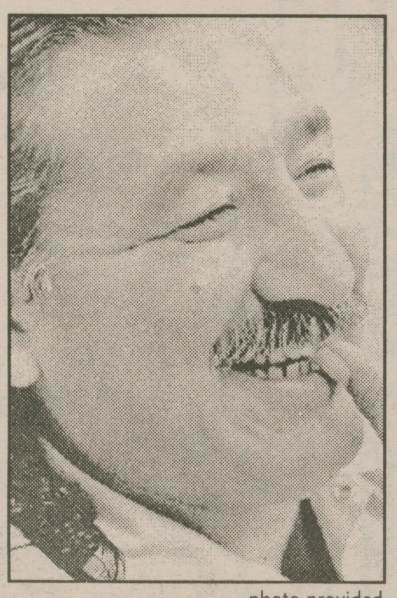

photo provided

Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned for 25 years.

Peltier fled to Canada, believing he would be granted asylum in the country. Had he not fled he would have been vindicated on the grounds of self-defense, as were the two co-accused. But was abducted by the RCMP in the town of Hinton, Alerta, and transferred to solitary confinement in a Vancouver jail until the conclusion of extradition proceedings in the spring of 1976.

Leonard Peltier was illegally extradited from Canada, based on false affidavits the FBI coerced out of his former girlfriend, Myrtle Poor Bear. A recent parole hearing in the United States was a gross miscarriage of justice. Peltier's request for parole was denied before the hearing had begun, even though ballistic tests were inaccurate and had been heavily falsified. The prosecution later admitted that they couldn't prove who tampered with the evidence, nor who shot the two FBI agents.

It is time for Bill Clinton to grant this North American political prisoner executive clemency. With dignitiaries and celebrities from all over the world demanding Peltier's freedom – from Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela to Susan Sarandon and the British Parliament – we would think the United States would take action.

Now, it is time for us to make our voices heard and demand clemency for Peltier. Twenty-five years is enough!

Please call and fax the White House at 202-456-111, or visit the website, www.freepeltier.org. Write to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (no postage required) and call on him to demand Peltier's freedom.

Andre Bueno is a member of the Hospital Employees Union and the Victoria general-membership branch of the Industrial Workers of the World.

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Still time to save Gordon Head gardens

by Leigh Cormier

Community gardeners at the Gordon Head Allotment Gardens may be without land to grow their food if the the Victoria Diocese of the Catholic Church sells it to developers to save itself from $18 million of bad debts.

But while the Diocese may already have entered into an agreement with Victoria-based companies Carolyn Developments and Pacific Beach Investments to sell the lands off Gordon Head Road, the rooster will not crow three times on this one until the Saanich Municipal Council approves a rezoning application.

"The land is currently zoned for agricultural/rural uses and as such an application for rezoning must be submitted to Saanich Council," says Neil Findlow, Senior Municipality Planner for Saanich. "An application of this type usually takes from six months to a year depending on how political the process gets."

The community has used the Gordon Head lands for the past 27 years. Findlow explained that the public can ask council to conduct an environmental or social impact review.

Russell Stubbs said Carolyn Developments plans to submit their rezoning application to council by Dec. 8.

The Gordon Head Local Area Plan, last updated in 1997 after extensive public consultation, identifies the diocesan lands for potential residential development. This makes it hard for the council to contradict the plan and keep the gardens' current with agricultural/ rural zoning.

"The gardens were only seen as an interim use for the area," Findlow says. "The approval for rezoning will come down to a political decision, and, as such, community pressure will certainly help guide the local council's decision."

photos by Richard Warrington

This trail could become the next row of driveways in Gordon Head

He predicted a tricky balancing act for council as they weigh the need for community growth and shortage of housing with the need to preserve green space in Saanich.

But despite being seen as an "interim use for the area," the resources invested in and derived from the allotment gardens have been substantial. The Province has provided $40, 000 in capital. The gardens have also been exempt from Saanich property taxes for 27 years, translating to a total of $432,000 forfeited by Saanich homeowners. Over 200 gardeners invest their time and labour to the benefit of Saanich families and regional food banks.

About 500 people directly benefit from the food harvested in the allotment gardens.

In place of the 10-acre garden plot, the church and developers envision "20 townhouses and 37 detached homes on their own lots," explains Symmons. "The detached lots will be slightly higher density than normal, with small yards." He also points out that the new development will cater to longtime residents looking for a smaller home in the community.

"There will be no affordable housing and no student housing," Symmons says. In the meantime, each detached home will have garage space for two vehicles as well as driveway space for two additional vehicles.

The church informed the gardeners to be off the land by December 31, 2000. Most gardeners stopped working their plots in September.

"[The church] could have let us garden until the rezoning was decided, but they just didn't want us to have anything to hold onto," Lousier explains. He said initially, numerous Saanich residents were active in trying to save the plot through a letter writing campaign that targeted Saanich Council.

Existing development already borders on the allotment gardens

> The approval for rezoning will come down to a political decision, and as such community pressure will certainly help guide the local council's decision.
>
> *Neil Findlow, Saanich municipal planner*

Two committees were struck in September by the Gordon Head Gardener's Association, one to find a new site for the garden, the other to try to petition against the rezoning of the Gordon Head site. A potential alternative site was found on Houlahan Road, but plans were scratched after a consultation meeting where residents voted unanimously against the garden proposal due to a possible increase in traffic and potential for smells from the garden.

The church and developers held two community consultation meetings in October to inform people of the development plans and solicit feedback from the community.

"These were conditional consultations, because the church was not willing to compromise even if everyone was against rezoning of the gardens," Lousier says. She further explains that because the consultations were structured in this way, residents took for granted that council had already approved the rezoning.

"It was made clear that the church would not compromise and resultantly, people didn't believe the land could remain agricultural."

Since then, the community has become quiet.

"Almost everyone thinks the deal is done and has given up hope," says Gordon Head gardener David Sterling.

Other residents are quiet because of their ties to the church. Lousier explains that "some gardeners who belong to the Catholic diocese feel torn; they know the benefits of the garden, but do not want to see churches or schools closed."

Lousier also adds that even if the land is not rezoned, the gardens are not afforded long term protection under the current zoning system.

"The land and garden is just too rich to bulldoze the land, the people, the knowledge, the food. It's just a gem and I don't know how anyone can think otherwise," she said.

If you would like to learn more about this issue, or help protect the Gordon Head lands in their agricultural or rural state, contact Marisa Lousier at 370-7419.

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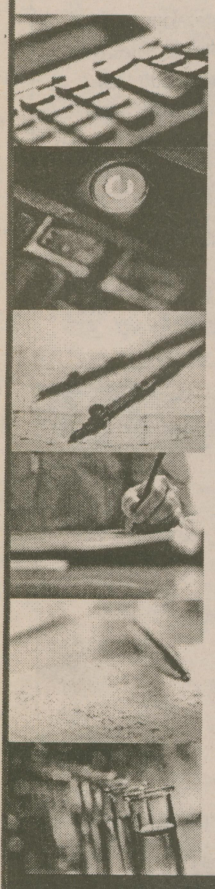

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Reasearch methods the focus of B.C.'s ice man presentations at UVic

by Carmel Ecker

An ice man found in a northestern B.C. park has the attention of a group of UVic researchers.

Drs. Howard Brunt, Taiaiake Alfred, Wolff-Michael Roth and Roger Dixon are the four ethics committee members using Canada's Tri-Council guidleines to assess the international scientific community as they research the history of Kwaday Dän Sinchì ("long ago person found") found in Tatshenshini-Alsek Park last August.

While scientists from around the world have some information from tests conducted since the discovery, they spoke mainly about the processes of their research at the University of Victoria last Thursday.

"We're just in the beginnings of writing the biography of the man that died on this glacier," said Dr. Owen Beattie, the forensic scientist who helped collect and transport the remains to Whitehorse and later to Victoria's Royal B.C. Museum.

(Beattie teaches anthropology at the University of Alberta.)

Now that all the necessary samples have been collected, scientists are in a new phase of their research, he said.

Currently, 10 of 17 research proposals in areas such as ethnohistory, DNA studies, trace element analysis and botany have been approved by a co-management team of First Nations, government and the museum.

To ensure the highest standards, the management team created an ethics committee at UVic to review international research proposals. The group has reviewed two projects – one at the University of Glasgow and the other at Oxford – already approved on a scientific basis.

The projects include examining food remnants in Kwaday Dän Sinchì's digestive system as well as tissue samples for dietary analysis.

Brunt said involvement of the First Nations indigenous to the park's location is crucial.

"Globally, we have a history of not really being partners with indigenous peoples," he said.

Because Kwaday Dän Sinchì doesn't have any known next of kin, the Champagne and Aishihik nations are like a surrogate family, "someone who can theoretically give consent," said Brunt.

Without their involvement, he speculated, the ethics committee might not have agreed to assess the projects.

After discussing the ice man from a forensic point of view, Beattie told the audience that the remains are that of a young man in his late teens or early 20s. He was approximately 165 cm (5 feet 5 inches) tall and of regular build before he died.

However, scientists are still stumped on the particulars of who he was, how he died, why he was on the glacier, and where he was from.

Contradictory evidence surrounding the body and the artifacts around it complicates the answers to those questions. One such example is the pollen samples found on the artifacts and around the site.

Dr. Richard Hebda, curator of botany and earth history exhibits at the Royal B.C. Museum, says the pollen samples can be traced to various flowers, shrubs and trees that grow in high elevations, low valleys, meadows or coastal areas.

"They all come together with this person," said Hebda.

Right now, he can't explain these conflicting signals, but hopes that further research will provide the answers.

The origins of the hat and robe Kwaday Dän Sinchì was wearing are also confusing. The hat, made of cedar root, appears to be a coastal Tlingit artifact, while the robe, made of ground squirrel (gopher), is most likely from the interior Tutchone people, said Sarah Gaunt, heritage planner for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN).

Complicating matters further are the different ages of the artifacts dated by radiocarbon.

The age of the remains hasn't been established, but the hat and robe date back around 550 years. Other artifacts, however, are only 200 to 300 years old, suggesting other travellers later passed through the area.

> We're just in the beginnings of writing the biography of the man that died on this glacier.
>
> *Dr. Owen Beattie, forensic scientist*

The body itself is not complete. The head, right arm, lower right leg and left foot are missing, though the remains that have been found are well-preserved for study.

This dispersal of body parts in the environment (called taphonomy) is an important one, according to Beattie.

With the melting of the ice over years, the torso "sat up" so it was exposed while the lower body remained safely in the ice. Because of the body's original position in the ice, with the right hand touching the head, it is likely the head and right arm were carried off in a channel of melted water, though some hair remained with the rest of the body.

Beattie wants to know how the body became a part of the glacier. There isn't enough evidence now to support any theories for how this happened. All scientists know is that the body must have frozen and attached itself quickly or else it would have mummified due to dehydration from exposure, Beattie said.

The Champagne and Aishihik nations are waiting to bury the body. The agreement with the First Nations states that researchers must return the body to the Yukon by Dec. 31 of this year, but a burial date has not been decided.

While some people questioned the importance of finding Kwaday Dän Sinchì, its significance is obvious to the Champagne and Aishihik peoples.

"It's important for us to find out who we are, where we're from and more about our landscape," said Lawrence Joe, the heritage, lands and resources director for the Champagne and Aishihik who have spent the last ten years researching their history along the Tatchenshini and Alsek rivers, which pass through the park.

Joe gave a brief history of the indigenous people, their process of self-government and what that meant for Kwaday Dän Sinchì's remains.

Because of an agreement between the First Nations and the B.C. government regarding the park, it was clear that CAFN would play a significant role in the recovery, research and burial of the body.

Nothing was done with the body until they were consulted – a decision that has brought First Nations people together, according to Gaunt.

The project has "gone such a long way to help reestablish old relationships which were weakened over the last 50 to 100 years by the coming of boundaries," she said.

Most important to the indigenous people was to respect Kwaday Dän Sinchì and First Nations communities. So elders and neighbouring First Nations people are constantly being consulted and updated.

Learning from this unexpected "teacher" was also an important focus of several presentations.

Every aspect of research on Kwaday Dän Sinchì will offer valuable information, according to Hebda.

The pollen grains can tell us a lot about the environment 500 years ago and the microbial DNA research currently being conducted could help modern medicine, he said.

Though much of the information about Kwaday Dän Sinchì's life still has to be revealed over the coming months and years, scientists and First Nations alike hope the findings will reveal more about the cultural aspect of the area.

For example, finding out why the man was in this area may give clues to why other people were travelling through there at the time.

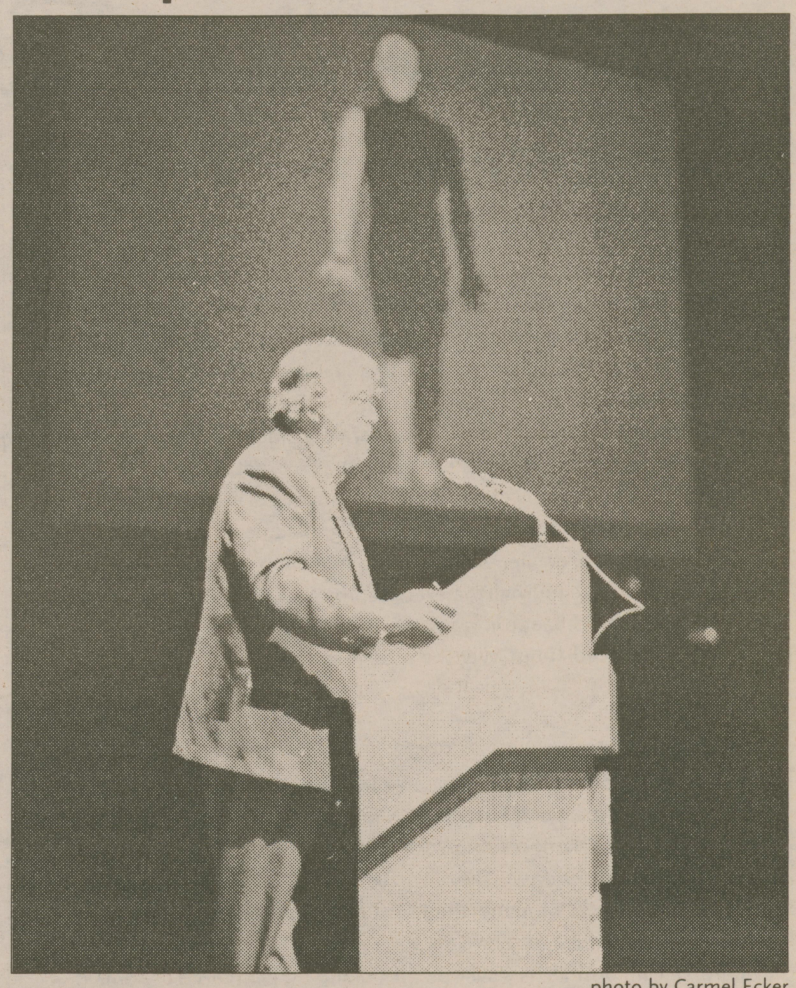


photo by Carmel Ecker

Dr. Owen Beattie from the University of Alberta discussed the forensics involved in examining the "ice man" found in northwestern B.C. last summer. Here he shows a slide of the missing remains.

It also offers CAFN youth a chance to learn about their culture and history, said Gaunt.

Some elders are coming forward with stories of people who travelled across this area and never returned home.

"This person is a lot more than just a scientific study," she said. "We'll learn more about him for years to come."

Beattie agreed, saying Kwaday Dän Sinchì died while going about his daily life. Scientists are trying to answer questions about this man as a person with a "powerful and compelling story to try and understand."

The research will tell us about the life of a single person, he said.

The reason scientists are taking so long to come up with findings is protocol.

The different groups working on the ten research projects have had to coordinate and cooperate in the collection and research process, said Beattie.

Hebda summed up the big picture in his last lines, saying his research is just a small part of the story. "We're all looking at it from different windows."

And it will take the views from all those windows to answer the myriad of questions that remain hidden in the research samples scattered around the world.

Government hands student loans over to private companies

by Darren Stewart

OTTAWA (CUP) – The federal government handed over service contracts for Canada's student loans to two private companies today, ending months of confusion over the fate of the program.

Edulinx Canada and BDP will act as administrators for the Canada Student Loans Program.

Thomas Townsend, director of the student loans program at Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), said he is confident these two companies will provide the best service to students at the lowest cost to taxpayers.

"That's the entire intent," he said. "More importantly, we're going to measure that service."

Townsend said the new agreement will allow his department to monitor the loan service and hold the companies accountable to their commitments.

Kieran Green, spokesperson for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), said his group welcomes the new deal though they remain wary, given private companies' poor performance record in administering student loans.

"They say they're going to provide a higher quality of service and they're going to make the process of getting a student loan easier. We intend to hold them to these promises," he said.

The Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) chair Michael Conlon said he welcomes the potential for a more accountable and transparent system of loan administration, though the real problems surrounding student loans are far from being addressed.

Conlon said the CFS would continue to lobby the government to take greater steps to alleviate growing student debt.

"It's great to be able to tell students that their calls are going to be answered in 90 seconds, but that's not going to help a student pay back a $50,000 loan."

Conlon also worries that the new agreement will create "two tiers of service." Loans taken out between 1995 and 2000 are still subject to the risk-sharing agreement between HRDC and various banks.

Townsend said HRDC will attempt to resolve complaints from students with a loan under the risk-sharing system, though they encourage students to try to resolve their concerns with the financial institution that originally administered the loan.

Student loan policy such as availability and interest rates will remain under the control of HRDC, though student groups expressed concern over the private companies' level of involvement in the process, particularly Edulinx, which is 49 per cent owned by USA Education Inc.

"We would have liked to have seen the contract go to a 100 per cent Canadian owned company," said Green.

Conlon noted that Education Inc. is lobbying the US Senate, trying to further privatize the control of student loans south of the border. Representatives from both student organizations said it's crucial to keep private companies out of the processes of public policy.

The contract awards $91.6 million to Edulinx for servicing loans to students at public institutions and $45.7 million to BDP for loans to students at private institutions.

The new system begins in March 2001 and expires in 2004. Both companies will be responsible for the loan disbursements, managing student loan accounts during the borrower's education, the consolidation and repayment of loans and management of debt while borrowers are in repayment.

EDITORIAL:

From the desk where Glezos sits: A year in review

Well, another year is on its way out with little more to show for it than a basement shelter full of canned vegetables and ammunition, thank you very much Y2K. (Was some sort of nuclear holocaust really too much to ask for? What the hell am I supposed to do with a lifetime supply of cocktail wieners and artichoke hearts?)

For our last editorial of the year, we were considering doing something on the millennium/Y2K+1 thing but given the fact that, apart from a few math geeks, nobody really cares about that anymore, we figured we'd just let that cultural phenomenon die a quiet, dignified death. However, with no massive, media-hyped calendar change to make fun of, we were forced to fall back on that trite journalistic exercise, the Year in Review (*The Martlet:* Phoning it in without feet for 53 years). So without further ado, here are the stories that you read about over the past year.

The Canadian Election

What a world of difference an election can make. For example, just three short years ago the Liberal party was in power, Jean Chrétien was the Prime Minister, the Bloc Quebecois won the majority of Quebec and the Reform party won most of the west. This year the Liberal Party is in power, Jean Chrétien is the Prime Minister, the Bloc Quebecois won the majority of Quebec and the Alliance party won most of the west. God bless Canada. Where else can journalists cover politics using the cut and paste function?

The Coke Club

In the 1960s students marched for an end to the Vietnam War and the senseless slaughter of hundreds of thousands of human lives. Now they fight for access to fizzy beverages. Well, at least they're keeping busy.

Tuition Freeze

"Buddy, can you spare $40,000?"

At a press conference conveniently located in the hallowed halls of this very institution, B.C. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh announced his intention to continue the tuition freeze for a sixth straight year. Naturally, this is provided he's still the Premier in a year and not busy writing his memoirs "Thanks A Bunch, Glen." The freeze will maintain B.C. universities' yearly tuition fees at $2,280, as opposed to Alberta, where the cost is $3,841 or Ontario, where a year's university currently costs $3,971 and your first-born child.

The American Election

Is it just me, or was watching CNN anchor Bernard Shaw slowly go insane over the course of election night like the most entertaining thing ever? It's been nearly a month since America went to the polls and the US Presidency is still in question. The time since then has been used up by recounts, court challenges and desperate pleas for someone, anyone, to explain the Electoral College system. Currently Gore is leading in the popular vote, and Bush has the majority of the Electoral College vote. Like most pundits, I'm blaming the impending Bush victory on the vote-splitting third party candidate. I'm of course referring to Lyndon Larouche.

Global Activism

Spurred on by the momentum gained at the massive WTO protests in Seattle last November, numerous activists movements have taken place over the past year. Protests in Windsor, Prague, D.C. and L.A. have dragged questions of global inequality and injustice kicking and screaming into the mainstream media, even if it is only in the form of sound bites and random images.

"The North American news industry: 'Give us 20 seconds, and we'll give you a vague impression of what's going on.'"

Oil Prices

Giving us just one more reason to give up that car, gas prices skyrocketed this year, regularly hitting the price of 80 cents per litre. It's important to keep in mind that, though the rise in price is painful to swallow, it is fun having one more opportunity to laugh at SUV-driving yuppies trying to look rugged.

Hempology 101 Arrest

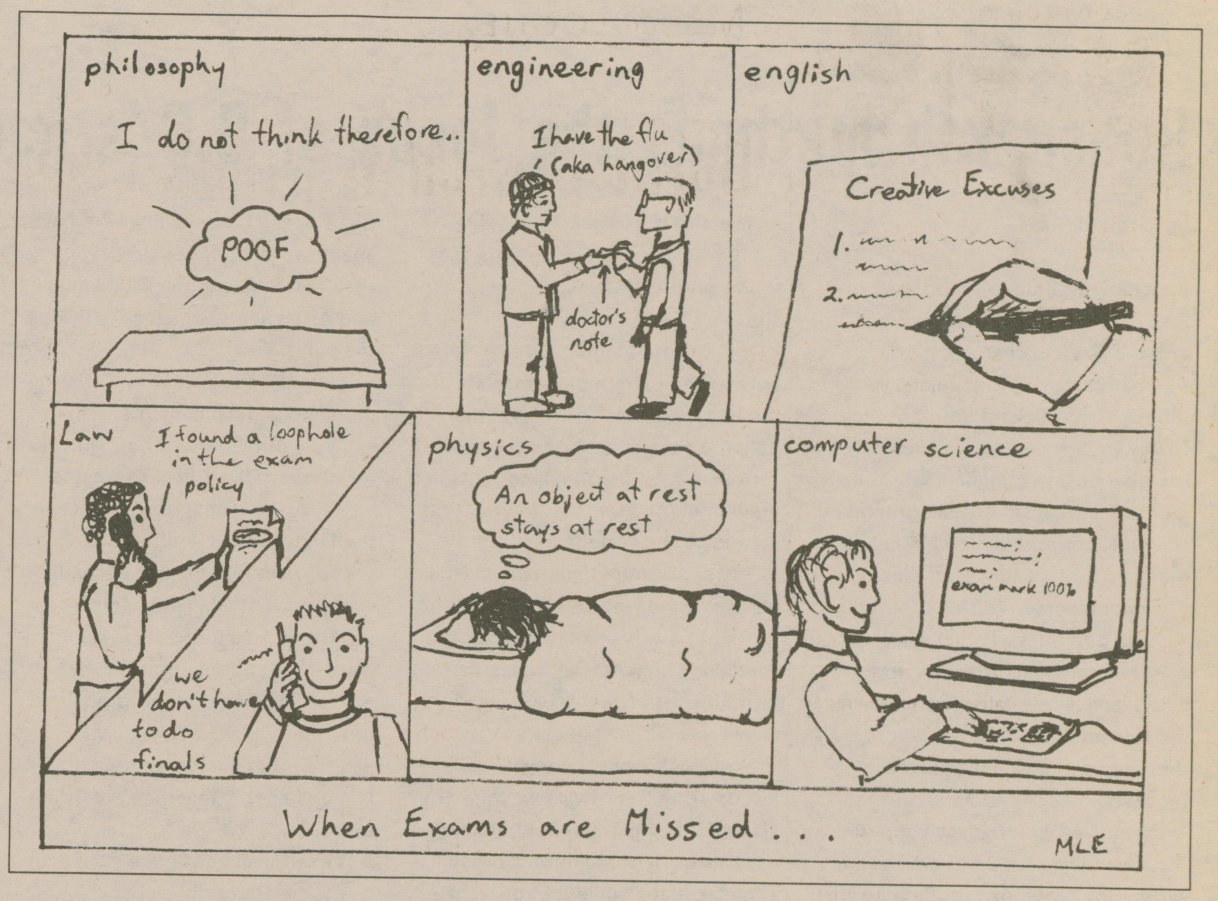
In a turn of events that has shocked and surprised about three people, the head of an organization dedicated to an illegal drug has been placed under arrest. Ted Smith, head of the Hempology 101 club, dedicated to the decriminalization of marijuana specifically for medical usage, was arrested by Saanich police for participating in the club's weekly '4:20' meetings, wherein members of the club partook of a mild narcotic in a communal setting. No word on whether or not the arresting officers went out after work to a pub for a few beers.

Boy Bands

Not technically a phenomenon limited solely to last year, but frankly I'll take any opportunity I can to make fun of dorky looking facial hair.

Happy Holidays from all the staff here at *the Martlet*.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at noon in the SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff.



STUDENT VOICE:

Why I am not a part of any student movement

by Paul Harder

After four years at UVic, four years of cheap cynicism, slogans and shouting, I am finally through – today was my last day of classes, before I move to Russia, to continue my studies.

Throughout my four years here, the editorials of *the Martlet* have provided noxious, poorly written garbage, and Marxist clichés; the next issue invariably features equally unintelligent responses from the opposite side of the political spectrum. And sadly absent from the whole process are mutual respect, careful thought, and well-argued points – the very thing that universities are given billions of dollars to produce.

I can only shake my head at demands for more money, and can't help but feel disappointed in the student leadership, and galled at the suggestion that I should join their "movement." And here's why:

It is far too bombastic to suggest, as some routinely do, that student radicals on campus are the moral equivalent of Nazis or Soviet Communists.

But the essential similarity is sadly evident: reasoning based on prejudice and bigotry. As with all bigots, the stock and trade of the so-called "Student Movement" is easy answers to difficult questions. As Hitler explained the failure of Weimar Germany in terms of shadowy Jewish conspiracies, we're told thrilling stories of corporate conspiracies, and of "battles" on the streets of Seattle. There is no need for students to study the WTO, or Indonesia – what is really needed is more placard waving.

Just like Nazis and Communists, the student radicals at UVic offer us utopia just around the bend. Their world-view involves no gray areas, no uncertainty, no problems that require thought; but rather clear-cut, obvious solutions, that only plainly evil people would disagree with.

For example, we are told that our form of democracy is a sham, which needs to be "opposed" in street marches; but no one ever discusses what exactly we should do to remedy the situation. The fact that the only – let me repeat, ONLY – alternative forms of government ever put into practice in any modern state, are Fascism and Soviet-style Communism, is never considered. The very details that professional students should be elaborating are completely ignored. For example, if there is a lack of justice in society, how exactly should we transform the courts to change this? What new laws need to be enacted, and how should they be worded? If we are to have Socialism, how can I preserve my individual freedom, when the state will own everything, including the bread that I eat? We are told that Capitalism is a global, repressive and purely negative force. If that is so, then why do poor nations actively support the WTO? Why is it that the globally integrated South Korea is so much more prosperous than North Korea? Why are Hong Kong and Taiwan, former imperial colonies, the most prosperous areas of China? Such questions are never discussed. It seems that, unlike people who spend their whole lives living in these nations, it is the UVic radicals who truly understand "what is to be done." At 22, they have all the answers for all the world's problems.

And like all bigots, there is no evidence that can possibly topple their theories. If 5,000 people attend school in the midst of a student strike, while only 200 picket, it isn't because the students of UVic are fed up with the UVSS; it's because the students themselves have been tricked into "apathy" by Capitalism, of course. If the "wrong" party is elected by secret and free ballot in B.C. and Alberta, or in Canada as a whole, it is proof that democracy doesn't exist, and that the "ruling classes" are holding onto power through, naturally, Capitalism. And if student radicals are ignored, it isn't because their opinions amount to juvenile, one-sided rants, it is because they are being discriminated against by the press, which is – you guessed it – Capitalist.

The real truth of the matter is painfully evident to most of us at UVic. Despite the wild accusations that regularly appear in the angry editorials of *the Martlet*, student radicals are ignored simply because they have no creative ideas worth listening to. Though their platitudes contain many noble sentiments, the details of putting them into practice, are totally neglected. That young people of talent and vivaciousness should dedicate themselves to furious ranting, instead of constructive thought, would be unfortunate under any circumstance. What makes it tragic, is that this is a university; an institution created to engender critical, detailed thought.

After four years at UVic, I can say with confidence that there are many brilliant young women and men here, who are fulfilling this mandate. But, after four years of *Martlet* editorials and protests – the only part of university life that the general public sees – I can understand why the suggestion of more tax-dollars for universities is galling for many. If the "Student Movement" is to receive more public funding – and the respect of its constituents, including me – then the student leaders that represent us will have to behave more like professional students, and less like spoiled, arrogant children, in the midst of a tantrum.

Do svidania, UVic.

AGREE... DISAGREE... RANT... ARGUE... EXPRESS... SCREAM... WHISPER...

however you expree yourself... we would like to hear from you. send the *Martlet* your monologues, student voices and letters

martlet@uvic.ca, SUB B011, 721-8360

ENJOY YOUR SCHOOL BREAK – PARTY HARD ON NEW YEAR'S – WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2001

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Burnt Church Warriors come to campus to advocate action

by Troy Sebastien

Three months ago, Burnt Church Mi'kmaq warrior James Ward was sick with bronchitis. He was living off of one hour of sleep a night while fighting Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officers on a daily basis. The conflict between the fishers and the feds at Burnt Church, New Brunswick was at its height. On one side were the Mi'kmaq fishers – routinely pepper-sprayed and their lobster traps seized – whose only defense was the motley crew of warriors assembled by Ward. On the other side were DFO officers acting on the orders of the federal government to shut down their fishery at all costs. Somewhere in the middle were the non-Aboriginal fishers threatening to stop the Mi'kmaq on their own terms.

Ward had only six warriors to defend the Mi'kmaq fishery from federal enforcement. Their strength was waning, the outlook was bleak. His hopes were fading fast.

Then he received a call from a man named Keyway at the Westcoast Warriors Society asking if he needed any help. The Warrior Society is a group of mainly Nuu-Chah-Nulth men, dedicated to protecting and asserting Aboriginal rights and land title through direct action. They offered to help Ward and the Mi'kmaq in their fight. Keyway and his warriors arrived at Burnt Church four days later.

What is it that brought these men together from one end of the country to the other? They answer that it is the warriors' dedication to the fight for Aboriginal sovereignty, treaty rights, and land title. Ward, Keyway, and other members of the Westcoast Warriors Society were at UVic last week to talk about Burnt Church, the fight for Aboriginal rights, and the critical role of the warrior in Aboriginal society.

The conflict at Burnt Church became national news in September 1999 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on a case involving a Mi'kmaq fisher and the federal Fisheries Act. Donald Marshall Jr., the same man who spent 11 years in prison for a wrongful murder conviction in 1971, was charged with catching eels out of season, and without a license.

The Marshall decision ruled that Mi'kmaq have a treaty right to earn a moderate living off of fisheries harvest, and therefore found Marshall innocent. Burnt Church has vowed not to adopt the federal fisheries plan, opting to adhere to their own conservation rules. The conflict continues to this day, with no resolution in sight.

The revolutionary plays the role of a doctor who brings in a new life, a new society, It is inevitable.

Keyway

Ward is the main organizer of the Burnt Church Mi'kmaq warriors, and for good reason. He spent many years in both the Canadian military, and the United States military, including time in the elite US Airborne Unit. He has always identified as a warrior, and is now using his training to help his people.

"It instills a sense of purpose that has been taken away from our people," says Ward. "It gives us the moral strength to do what is just at all times regardless of the consequences. That is the honour of the warrior."

Keyway says that warriors are integral to Aboriginal society: they maintain a continuity with their community roots, provide a sense of empowerment to the community, especially to the youth, and challenge the destructive effect of colonial government. "It is ongoing and cyclical," says Keyway. He believes the restoration of pride and power is important for all Aboriginal peoples. "It has been stripped away from us through colonialism," he said. "Our leadership is a colonized indigenous people who play within the system, and not for the people."

These warriors believe that they fill a void in the leadership within Aboriginal government. Their role is informal, but integral to advocating for the advancement of self-government. They see their fight as a revolutionary cause against the Canadian state. "The revolutionary plays the role of a doctor who brings in a new life, a new society," insists Keyway. "It is inevitable."

So how far are these warriors willing to go to have their rights recognized and respected? "I do not believe in compromise, once you are on the bottom there is no where to go but up," says Keyway. They believe that the federal government recognizes them as a threat and that they use any and all means to stop them. Ward says that the government spends millions of dollars on enforcement, with the backing of the Canadian legal system to criminalize Aboriginal peoples who assert their inherent rights. "It is simple," says Ward, "destroy the messenger, destroy the message."

But the odds seem to be stacked against them. The DFO has taken thousands of traps, arrested the Burnt Church Chief, sunk a Mi'kmaq boat, and pepper-sprayed the fishers while they floated in the water. With opposition such as this how can the warriors have any hope for the future?

"I am optimistic," said Ward. "It is a pessimistic, realistic optimism. When we build a strong enough force they will have to deal with us. It is the equality of force that we are left with. We have tried everything else."

Despite the looming horizon of another fishery season next year, which promises greater conflict and violence, one thing is clear: these warriors have a message, and they will not go away. "For the sake of your personal integrity, question the authority, arrive at your own conclusions, exercise your own free will, and resist tyranny," says Ward to UVic First Nations students.

Keyway offered these parting words: "There is a change that is coming soon," he said. "Our fight is our life, we have righteousness on our side."

While the warriors' strong words demand a reaction, the DFO has popular opinion on its side, and with that there will not be foreseeable change in federal fisheries policy.

LETTERS ON PAGE 16

A quiet irony:

Retracing my steps on December 6th

by Sue Fast

The gold light of afternoon shines through the windows of a phone booth outside of Langara College in Vancouver. It's 1989. I'm 27. That morning, I had missed some of my journalism classes to go to a doctor's appointment for a pregnancy test. Now inside the phone booth, I press the receiver against my ear and wait.

The test result is positive.

When I hang up, I stand in the phone booth a minute longer. My heart beat blocks the sound of traffic and passersby. "I am pregnant," I whisper. Sliding open the folding phone booth door, I step into the bright December day. Cars rush by with the people inside cocooned from the cold. I still have three classes left until I will head home. I turn and walk back toward the school.

About the same time I'm climbing the stairs to my next class or sitting down at a desk searching for a pen, 25-year old Marc Lepine is walking into a classroom on the second floor at L'École Polytechnique in Montréal. He is not a student at the engineering school although years before, he had applied for admission and been rejected. He is wearing jeans and military boots. In his hands he carries a .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle. As one student will say later, "he didn't appear to be a madman." But Lepine has already killed one student, her body lying limp on the floor down the hall.

In my class, I survey the assignment sheet and then look around the room. Nine women and eight men. Not too long ago men outnumbered women in the Journalism program at Langara. Now it is – just barely – the other way around. Everyone is already typing.

When I look at the blank paper on my desk, all I can think about is the baby growing inside me. I still don't believe it and have to tell myself again and again that I am pregnant. I don't tell anyone else. My secret is safe. For now.

The assignment. I realize the instructor is talking. "Be cool, pay attention to the material," he says. "Break it down and put what's most important at the top." Two people killed. Car accident. Alcohol involved. Slippery streets.

In about the same time it takes me to feed my paper into the typewriter, Lepine has shot a bullet into the ceiling of classroom 311 and convinced the students that he is not joking.

"I want the women," yells Lepine.

He separates the men from the women and then orders the men to leave the room. When they are gone, he lines up the remaining nine women along the classroom wall.

"You are all feminists," he shouts. Then he raises his rifle and shoots all nine women, killing six.

I type the date in the left-hand corner of the page. Dec. 6, 89.

Lepine leaves classroom 311 and walks calmly through the hallway and then downstairs to the cafeteria on the first floor. There he kills three more women. Stepping over the bodies, firing randomly at those lying motionless on the floor, Lepine makes his way back upstairs, this time to the third floor. He walks through the corridor, kills four more women and then finally, himself.

"Time's up," says the instructor. I rip my sheet of paper from the typewriter and toss it onto the pile.

On my way home from school, I think about how to tell my husband, Barry, about the baby, the tiny life that is on its way into this world. I stop at a corner grocery store and buy a cheap greeting card, blank inside. I had hoped to find the perfect card – without Hallmark sentiments – to express in a picture what I cannot put into words, but settle instead for this tacky alternative. In it I write carefully, "Guess what?"

He guesses.

That night in bed, I lie on my back and rest my hand on my stomach. Barry puts his hand next to mine. I won't feel the baby moving for another 10 weeks, but I imagine the fetus already forming, a tiny, tadpole-like embryo no bigger than a grain of rice. I wonder if the baby will be a boy or a girl. Barry asks me if it matters. It doesn't.

illustration by Christina Harris

We look around our own classroom and imagine ourselves in the same circumstance.

We are quiet.

As I lie sleeping, the bodies of the 14 women lie together in a classroom, a kind of temporary morgue. For now the women are nameless to the police who search for identification. One police chief finds his daughter among the dead. One husband waits outside for his wife. When her teacher emerges from the building four hours later, he knows from the look on the teacher's face that his wife is dead.

Tonight, Lepine will remain anonymous. He is not carrying any id, but he is carrying a hand-written letter in his pocket.

"Forgive the mistakes, I only had 15 minutes to write this. Please note that if I am committing suicide today 89/12/06 it is not for economic reasons, but for political reasons. For I have decided to send Ad Patres (Latin for 'to the fathers') the feminists who have ruined my life. It has been seven years that life does not bring me joy and being totally blasé, I have decided to put an end to those viragos."

When I wake up, Barry is already out of bed, dressed and staring at the television screen, his face lifeless. On the morning news he has unexpectedly encountered news footage of the École Polytechnique shootings. One of the victims is on an ambulance gurney, the sheet around her drenched with blood.

"Madman Shooting rampage," "War zone," "Fourteen women killed." I sit beside him and try to make sense of what I see.

At school, we talk about the massacre. At first we discuss it formally like another class topic. What did we think of the press coverage? What about the photos? Then we start talking about the terror. We look around our own classroom and imagine ourselves in the same circumstances. We are quiet.

While staff at L'École Polytechnique are taking down Christmas decorations, students at Langara are hanging posters telling of tonight's candlelight vigil honoring the 14 women killed in, what is now being called "The Montreal Massacre."

All day, it rains.

Night. Outside the cool air of early winter presses against the windows. Inside, the warmth from the crowd presses back, condensation eventually streaming down the glass like tears. We bump together, not just tolerating each other's closeness but needing it. I clutch a candle and stand listening as someone reads the names of the 14 women killed in the shooting.

In the next two weeks – the time it took Lepine to buy his gun and execute his plan – my baby's brain, spinal chord, heart, digestive tract, sensory organs and arm and leg buds will start to form.

Royal Theatre turned basement party thrills Jesse Cook fans

I was hoping to meet a real character, but I figured big stars, you know, might have assistants and cell phones. We're waiting, and this dusty red pick-up truck pulls up and he jumps out and grabs his fishing pole from the back, went fishing on the bayou before the session.

Jesse Cook on accordion player Buckwheat Zydeco

by Jonathan Rothman

Somewhere between his childhood in Paris and his performance at the Royal Theatre, Jesse Cook learned how to perform. The guitar virtuoso of some Canada-wide and international acclaim visited Victoria for a night of music, featuring Cook and his band's instrumental rumba, flamenco and improvised world beat sounds.

"I know this is a pretty nice theatre," an affable Cook said to the nearly packed house. "But just for tonight maybe we can imagine we're gonna have a little basement party here."

Cook and the five able performers in his crew played tracks from most of Cook's four albums, including new material from the recently released *Free Fall*. The performance began with "Byzantium Underground," a track from Cook's 1998 breakout album, *Vertigo*.

The first set progressed in suit, with shuffling instrumental numbers like the zesty "Vida" and "Querido Amigo" from *Free Fall*, and *Vertigo*'s lead track, "That's Right!" Throughout the show, Cook proved an animated host, telling anecdotes and keeping the crowd happy with some between-song banter.

Before the rumba-cajun-shuffle, "That's Right!" Cook told a story about his visit to the bayou to record that track and others with legendary accordion player Buckwheat Zydeco.

"I was hoping to meet a real character, but I figured big stars, you know, might have assistants and cell phones. We're waiting, and this dusty red pickup truck pulls up and he jumps out and grabs his fishing pole from the back, went fishing on the bayou before the session," Cook told the crowd at the Royal. "When we recorded the song (as those who've heard *Vertigo* can attest to), he kept saying 'that's right!' as he was playing. We thought, well, it's a pretty good name for the song."

However, Cook's easygoing witticisms didn't overshadow the music. The two sets and the encore made for a nearly two-hour show, and none of it was disappointing. Jesse Cook's artful finger strums and flamenco fretwork was dazzling, and easily awed the happy crowd, which was a true Victoria affair – a mix of guys in grandpa sweaters and young star-struck axe-men (guitarists) alike.

The band was no slouch either, with another guitarist, Kevin Laliberte, at Cook's side, along with a backing rhythm section featuring energetic Eric Lyons on bass and "the undisputed king of the caja" (a wooden box played like a drum), Arturo Avalos on percussion. Chris Church, a guest violinist the group snared from a show in Halifax also won the crowd with his East Coast medleys in the ensemble. Church even took on the night's only vocal duty, guest singing the current single, "Fall At Your Feet." Though his voice proved competent, Church needed a little power to make the tune audible.

"Gimme some love, people," said a smiling Church after the group decided on the song as their first of two encore numbers. The crowd responded with great energy and a backing chorus; by the show's end, many danced near the stage. As was evident all night, the audience was having as great a time as the performers. It is said Victoria has no middle-agers, but these people came out of hiding, and they even had some rhythm. At Jesse Cook's basement party, the beat was easy to keep and the band knew how to keep 'em happy.

hey, did you know you can get free cds from the martlet? all you gotta do is review them for us. come down to SUB b011 and check out our selection of new releases.

Local Grouch shows up brilliant on new albums

by Scott Roberts

The first time I heard the Grouch mc, Just-B was rhyming over the beat to a track called "Simple Man." The beat was so smooth that I bought both that album, *Making Perfect Sense* and the one before it, *F*ck the Dumb*. They cost me $52 before tax, but it was well worth every penny.

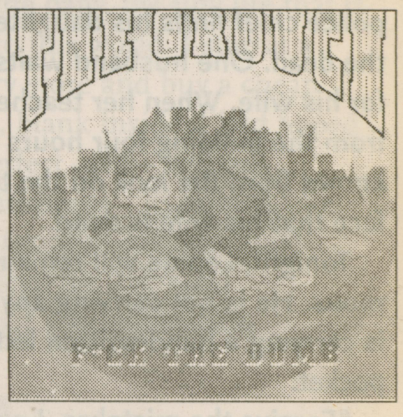
Coming out of the Bay Area as part of Living Legends crew, these two albums are number four and five from the mc and producer, the Grouch. I can't say that I'm surprised he writes all the rhymes and makes all the beats (with a couple of exceptions). His vocals flow and the smooth, at times almost ambient, beats are so perfectly matched that it seems obvious they came from the same person.

The best example of the pure synthesis of these two elements is "Nothings Changing." On it, the Grouch uses a single wood drum, a single base line and the four-string strum of a harp over which he dangles his lyrics. The track is smooth and affectionate, not what one would expect to hear from such an underground mc.

Almost as if to say that he's not soft, "Bangers" comes up next on the album. The song uses a thick, heavy bass drum and hard, driving lyrics for all the hand wavers out there.

But this review can't be ended without getting back to *Making Perfect Sense*. It almost seems that the Grouch goes out of his way to show up other crews by just being, well, better than them. "Cool Enough" is one of the best posse tracks in the past five years. Featuring other Living Legends crew members, asaop, BFAP, Scarub, Eligh, and PSC, "Cool Enough" may even be the standout track on this album.

The cds may be a little more expensive but don't try to find them on Napster. If you do find them, don't download them, go out and support small label artists and your local b-boy/writer/mc.



A few reasons to buy this album:

1) Because since Hieroglyphics, the Quannum Project is the freshest crew to come out of the west.

2) Because Shadow, Chief Excel, and Lyrics Born are the "head mechanics."

3) Because after over a decade of battlin' over radio shows and other assorted shit, these guys all started hanging out after they realized that they were all into Audio Two's Top billin.'

4) Because chances are if you already have some (or most) of the tracks on this two-cd compilation there are a few that you don't and you can afford to drop a few bucks to pick 'em up.

5) Because it's made in Canada, and distributed by Ninja Tune, so this compilation is relatively cheap.

6) Because there aren't all that many of us that have some (or most) of the "previously unavailable on cd" stuff that's on this compilation.

7) Because none of us have the previously unreleased stuff.

8) Because you can read all the interviews and reviews that you want, but if you don't know/haven't heard where they come from, then you don't really know where they're at.

9) Because the album's hidden track is hidden as if it were a strange analog-digital transfer (you can make sense of that one for yourself).

10) Because it's 100 per cent bumpin' beats.

The Grouch's albums are available locally exclusively at The Complex Urban Apparel on 639 Johnson.

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Conjecture™ proves to provide mental and physical well-being

by Timothy Brown

Forget Stockwell Day bashing and all those dismal pedestrian holiday activities. The real excitement lies with an innocuous little game called Conjecture. If you can tear yourself away from gawking at gallivanting nude bikers, or take a break from completing field research on the effects of hydroponics on organic medication, do check out this addictive new habit.

Combining such simple and amusing concepts as "guesstures" and other fun-filled games, Conjecture requires a player to shape an amorphous mass of scented "Conjecture™ Dough" into various people, places and objects. Participants, the greater the number the better, gather into groups of roughly equal numbers initially. They are then handed a lump of dough and one sculptor in each group is given a topic. The quickest group to guess the object (be it a famous personage, a location, or even a concept) wins by screaming out the answer. This of course results in quite a considerable decibel level, especially with larger groups, but this only adds to the excitement and exultation when your group wins.

Unlike many games (charades, for instance), novelty and creativity on the part of either those guessing or those sculpting is rewarded. The benefits of artistic creativity are readily apparent: your team wins. But there are other pluses. Your creativity in hiding small portions of pre-sculpted dough will be valued. Also treasured will be your innovative ability to scoop out an answer surreptitiously. Most of all, your fellow players will honour your participation in creating an activity that promotes the growth of many areas in the mind.

Conjecture is a fascinating game that brings together all kinds of people, appealing to students in a wide variety of programs, from engineering to drama. The game's wide-ranging appeal has something to do with the attractive odours of the dough. The combination of creativity with the opportunity to meddle with dough is something not inherent in many recreational activities. At a recent game, not one person could remain but entranced by the sights, scents and sounds of this material. Another joyous occupation during the game is over-intellectualizing dough and savouring that simple glee of trouncing one's opponent with your superior creativity.

This is a game that infects even the dourest of individuals. It's the excitement of competition that is contagious. Even Americans enjoy the game in its pacifistic entirety. Present at a recent game was Josh Kruse, a first year business student from Houston, Texas. Kruse expressed his disappointment with the lack of firearms present, but nevertheless tremendously enjoyed his experience. "Right, right, the game was enjoyed by all," he commented after a recent game.

His fellow player, Tam Narine, a third year sociology major at UVic, commented on the societal implications of such a game and attempted to explain the community aspects of Conjecture. Eventually, Narine settled on the idea that the game helps elevate society to a new plane, by enhancing unity and providing a sense of unity to those participating.

Jeff, a second year engineering student who declined to offer his full name, realized that his program would offer him no advantage whatsoever in the game, yet still managed to be gracious about losing. Jeff too, expressed his thorough appreciation for Conjecture.

With enough support, students at the university could even make it UVic's official recreational activity complete with a contract stipulation banning all other recreational activities. Just think, this could happen, if at least three per cent of the campus backs the resolution. However, what would be the benefit of recognizing yet another transcendent activity that corroborates the complete subjectivity of morals?

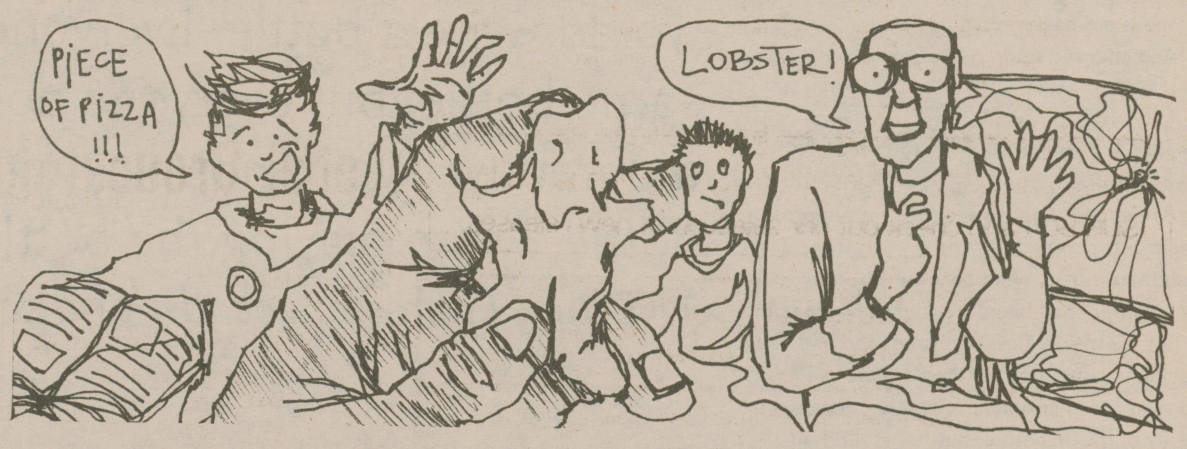
The blessings are myriad, and include relaxation, mental and physical workouts, as well as an enhanced sense of community (a bonding experience).

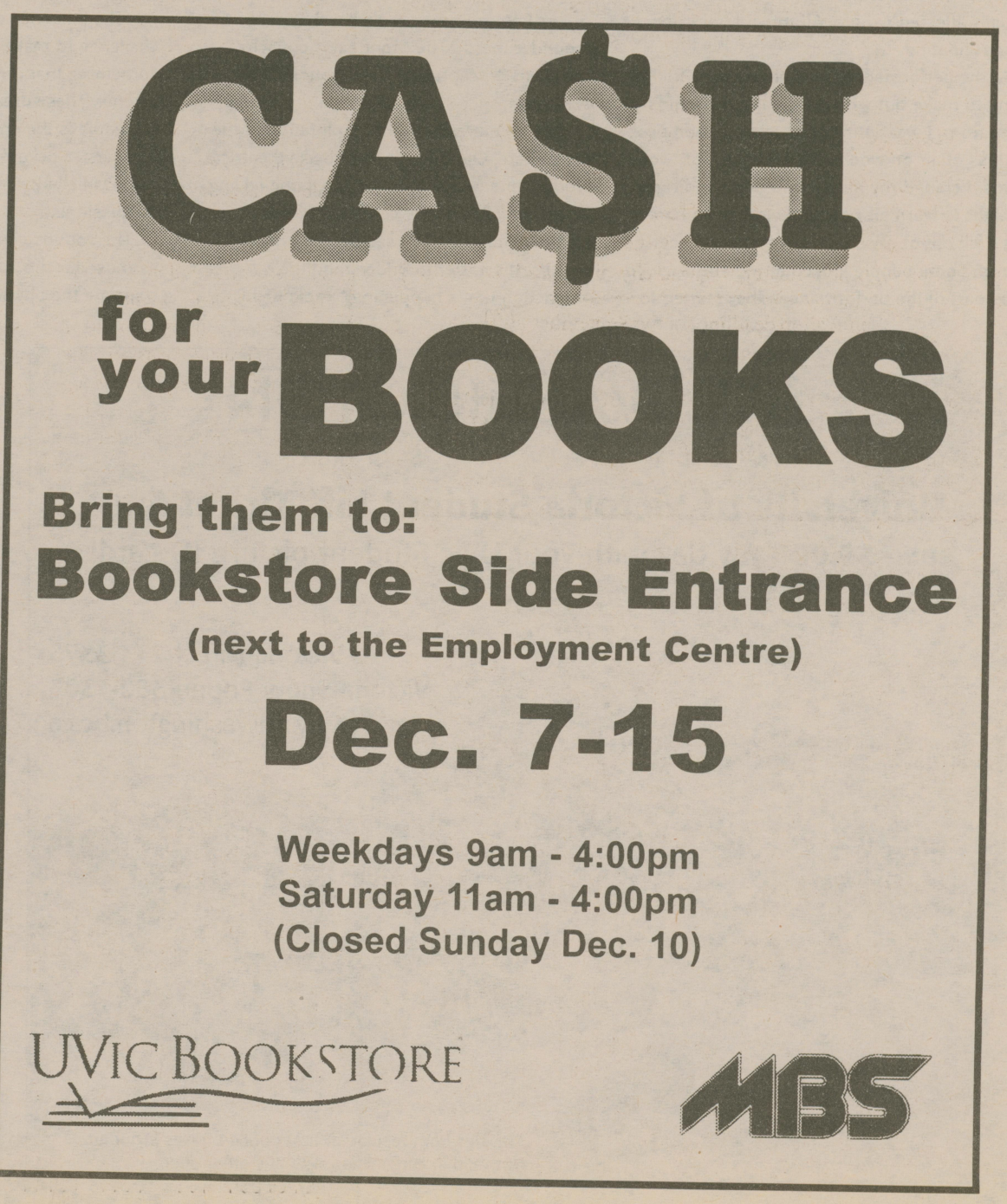
Also, the game is completely legal, unless the smoking of crack is involved, which would of course make it illegal and deplorable.

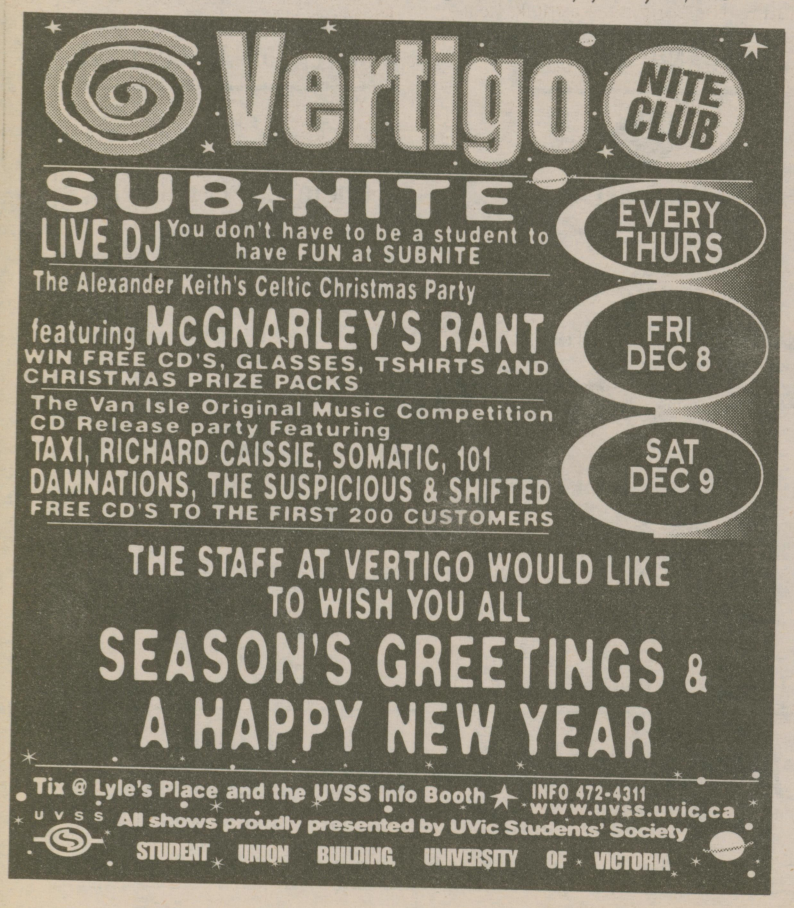
Being ever-curious and indoctrinated towards the inquisitive, one might ponder exactly how this simple game extends so many benefits. An understandable question, and one that is easily answered. The mental portion of the activity is obvious, with both creativity and considerable mental acumen valued. The physical facet comes with endeavouring to be heard above the post-round clamour, and the possible ensuing of altercations to determine exactly who shouted first.

So, rather than scurry to find one of the two brilliantly placed washroom facilities in the Clearihue building, go and try out a game of Conjecture today, you might just burn off all the calories you needed to.

The game's wide-ranging appeal has something to do with the attractive odours of the dough.



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Improvisation: Les Poules and the art of listening

by Jessica Gin-Jade Chan

My first introduction to Les Poules was a listen to their 90-minute demo. The sounds were interesting enough, minute after minute of soft squeaks, punctuated with metallic rattles in the background, followed by 10 full minutes of what sounded like four people french-kissing. All this intimacy was very frustrating because I wasn't part of it, and those people didn't seem to need to come up for air. I was certain I was really supposed to hear something else. I turned up the volume (somewhere past midnight).

And chanced upon one of the six occasional piercing screams packaged in the demo. It was LOUD. I had to reassure my considerate neighbour I wasn't being slaughtered up for some meal.

By the time I got to see this trio perform, I was pretty psyched. During my last three days with their music, I had become sexually exasperated, had been accused of all kinds of things, from sacrifice to suicide, and had been issued a warning by my landlords for being noisy in a non-sexual activity. I had listened to plenty of music before, but none of it had actually affected my life. All this interactivity was fascinating.

At the performance, I sat still for two hours, trying to make out where the various sounds came from. I was introduced to more oddities: the hiss of air on wood, the humming of two hands. I craned my neck, shifted left and right all night to learn all I could. I worked so hard that I fell out of my chair with an eeeeeeeee-ah, thomp. Some people looked at me and decided I was part of the performance. They started to clap, then changed their minds. At the end of the night, I had a new bump on my rump. I had also learnt some things: vocal training can make one person smacking her lips sound like four people kissing, shaking two zip-lock bags of rivulets can sound musical in a digital recording, and sounds become clearer when their sources can be seen.

> We can play a bottle, just as a painter would paint a bottle, just as a writer would write a bottle. Everyone sees the same bottle, but everyone does it differently. We're not playing about a bottle, we're playing the bottle.
>
> *Diane Labrosse, vocalist and sampler player, Les Poules*

Les Poules improvises what they call "soundscapes." The Montréal trio places emphasis on capturing the emotional elements of sounds.

"We're interested in the exploration of the object here. Our sounds can be like theatrical productions, you don't have the same feeling when you listen to the cd as you would if you are present. When you see people explore sounds, it's easier to understand the interaction that's happening," explained Diane Labrosse, vocalist and sampler player.

This interaction between the listener and musician is the key note in improvised music. The emphasis placed on this relationship is part of the creative energy present in improvised sounds. Since the "flesh" of the musical composition is created on the spot, no one present is prepared for the results of the performance. Improvisation audiences do not have the luxury of hopping off to the next record store to purchase a pre-recorded version of the music. The option of singing yourself into the mood for the concert is not available. All you can do is prep yourself for the unusual and go to the performance with an open mind.

The members of Les Poules incorporate technology and banal sound production methods in their "soundscapes." Their choices reflect their creativity, ranging from the projection of taped sea waves to the simple flapping of a piece of paper. However, the trio's performances are less about kidnapping an audience's concentration. Their real focus is on giving something back to their listeners.

"The influence of technology for us is the challenge to make something that is of interest, something that can create emotions for the listener. These dream images the sounds give to people is the energy and imagination for listeners to believe in their own expression," said Danielle Palardy Roger, vocalist and percussionist.

The sounds generated by Les Poules serve as muse for the appreciator. The trio aim to translate the physical into creative forms of inspiration. Labrosse believes that the best concerts she attends are the ones that make her want to make music.

"That's a great feeling, this, wanting to create because of someone else's work," said Labrosse. "It's not important, whether it's our kind of performance, cinema, dance or theatre. If you are an artist and if you are in the room and the show gives all the right ingredients to create, then it's perfect for you."

For the trio, becoming sources of inspiration involves translating their views into aural and vocal expressions. This is the essence of their "soundscapes." Labrosse is quick to elaborate on their musical concept.

"We can play a bottle, just as a painter would paint a bottle, just as a writer would write a bottle. Everyone sees the same bottle, but everyone does it differently. We're not playing about a bottle, we're playing the bottle."

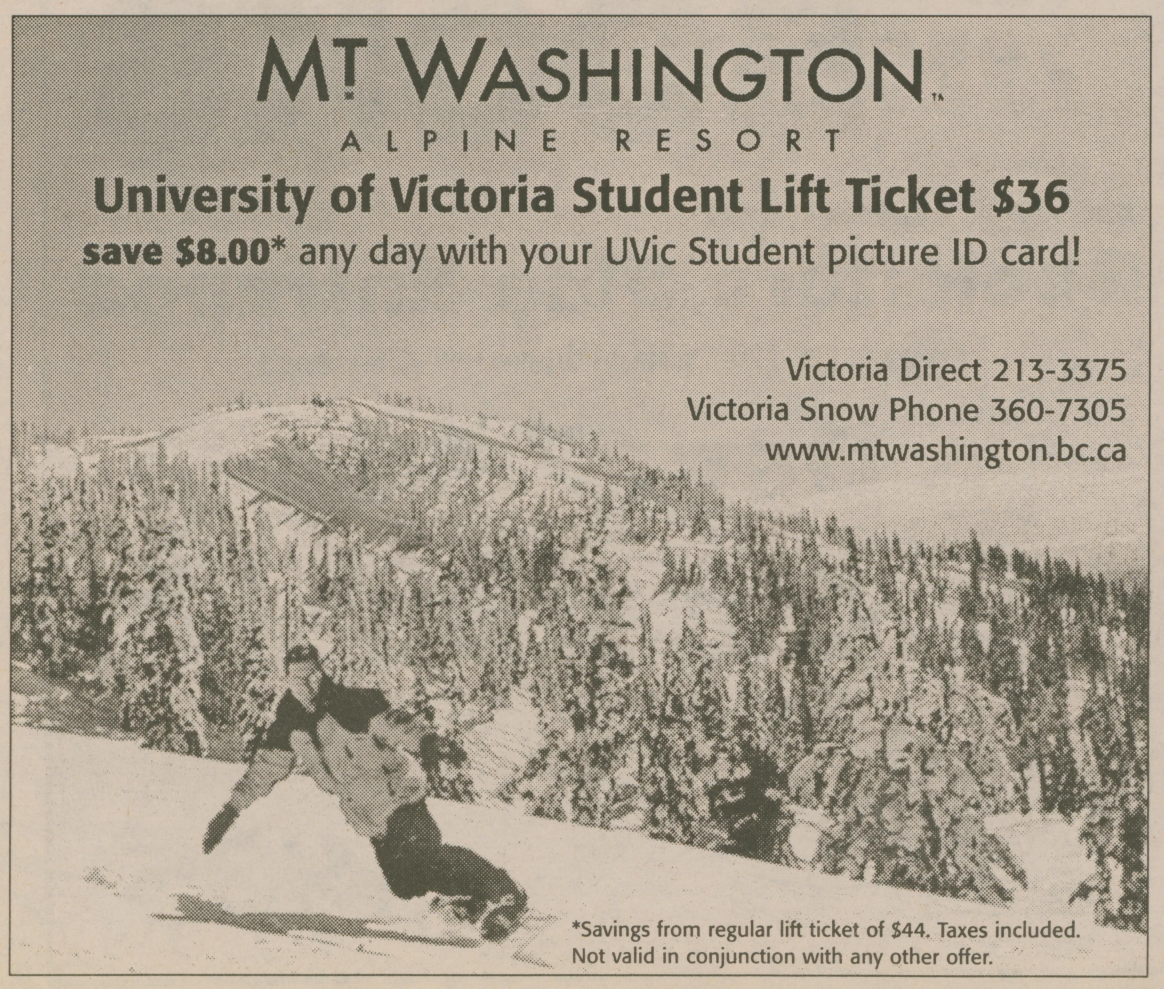
Performers see improvisation, a contemporary genre in music, in a multitude of ways. While the basic concept behind improvised music is the creation of performance material on the spot, there are practical purposes that limit this idea. Some of these limitations are obvious: the need for a set duration for live performances and a viable means to organize the sounds.

Les Poules operates within boundaries they deem necessary for themselves.

Their performances are created in set time frames, sometimes they introduce the "mathematics of music" into their creations. This math involves dictating performance time to only certain members within a set. The members of Les Poules have been partners in musical improvisation for almost 20 years. However, even their familiarity and set rules do not guarantee a mind-blowing performance. Roger explains the mechanics behind their harmonic dissonance.

"It's both the moment and nuances of your partners that counts in a performance. I know a lot of the things we will do because we've been together so long, but we still surprise each other. Sometimes the blend is easy and our musical language flows, sometimes nothing comes out.

Improvisation is the experience of listening to other people, it is a conversation of sounds you need to blend with the other person. Music is a question of listening mostly when you improvise. It's more important to listen than to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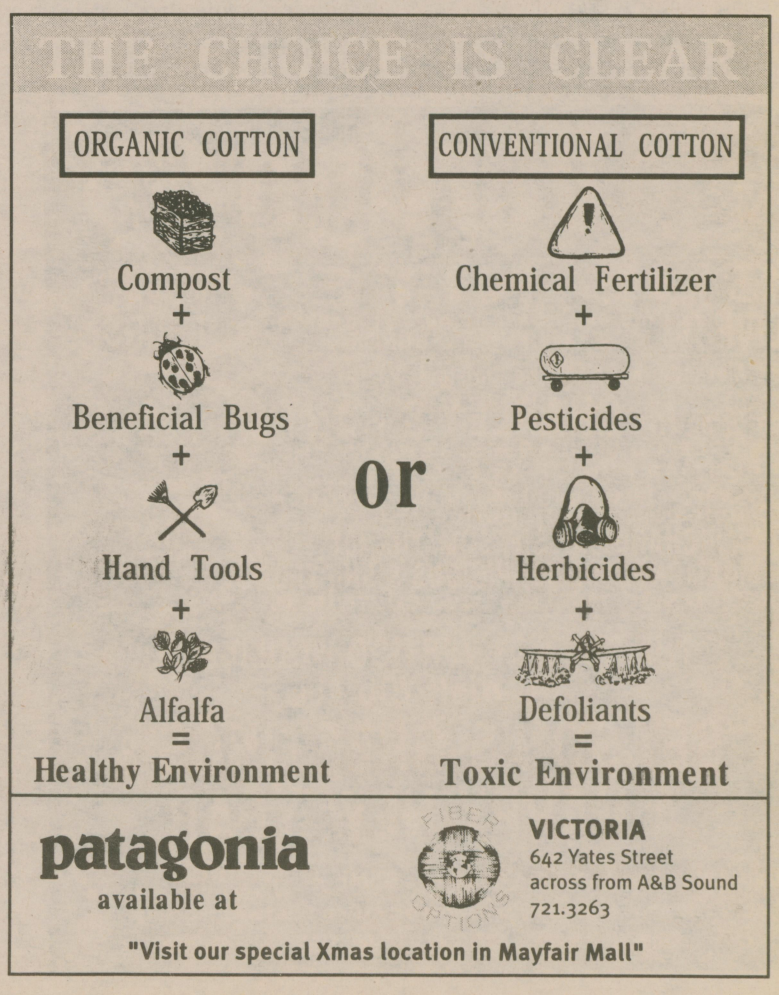


Reviewing sports movies classics: from *Slapshot* to *Karate Kid*

Martlet writer and sports fanatic Iain McLetchie cleaned out a local video store to determine the top 10 sports films ever made

by Iain McLetchie

December has rolled around again, and with it comes the ugly spector of long days studying followed by hours of torturous exam writing.

Of course, once exams are finished, one is left with nothing but joyous visions of spending peaceful evenings in front of the fireplace, sipping cognac with the folks and reminiscing about the glories of Christmas past and present.

Well, maybe for some people. The rest of us relax the best way we can. Some ski, some snowboard, some play shinny on outdoor rinks, and some smoke pot. In fact, some people can combine all of the afore-mentioned activities, but I think that only happens in Whistler. However, there is one sure thing about the holidays – we'll likely rent a movie at some point.

With that in mind, I sat down and came up with a list of the best sports movies available on the shelves. A few of the lads were around to give suggestions and give their impressions. Together we amassed a collection of sports flicks that would astound the average video renter.

From The Air Up There to *Young Blood*, we sized all comers and gave thoughtful insight into the merits and flaws of each movie.

Now, the ranking itself is a fairly straightforward compilation – the shows are simply the flicks I liked best. Some are comedy, some are serious; some have great actors, some don't; some shows moved me emotionally, others made me piss myself laughing.

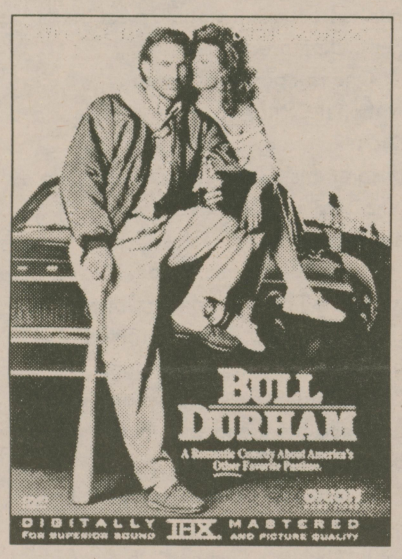
In any event, each of these movies is one with which I would be proud to waste a perfectly good winter's afternoon. See what you think.

1. ***Field of Dreams*** – "If you build it, he will come." Kevin Costner hears a voice which prompts him to level his Iowa cornfield and build a baseball diamond. It's a film about a man's journey to discover his past, which is intertwined with the game of baseball. I actually started crying the last time I watched this show. By far the best sports movie I've ever watched.

2. ***Hoosiers*** – Basketball IS religion in Indiana and this film, which is based on a true story, tells the tale of a tiny high school which goes on to beat all comers in the State Championship. Inspiring, humourous (in parts) and featuring old-school back-door cuts. Can life be any better?

3. ***Caddyshack*** –Bill Murray in his breakout role as a wacked-out greenskeeper fighting fairway-wrecking gophers. Possibly the funniest sports movie made, culminating with Murray imagining himself playing in the Masters'.

4. ***Slapshot*** – "Hey Hanrahan, your wife's a ****." If we'd thought as kids that minor-league hockey was like this flick, you can bet we'd all still be chasing the dream. This film has the distinction of introducing the Hanson Brothers to the world.


BULL DURHAM
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5. ***Bull Durham*** – Another Kevin Costner baseball movie; this time with him playing a minor-league catcher in his final season with the Durham Bulls. Tim Robbins plays "Nuke" Laloosh, a wild young pitcher who resorts to wearing women's garter's and "breathing through his eyelids" in order to relax himself. Pretty damn funny.

6. ***He Got Game*** – Let's face the facts: Denzel Washington is a dude, Ray Allen is one hell of a good basketball player, and Spike Lee is a stellar filmmaker (not to mention a die-hard Knicks fan). Supposedly Washington, a former college player, actually played Allen one-on-one between takes. The action is intense, and there are loads of cameo's by pro players and college coaches. Pretty good soundtrack, too.

7. ***Rocky*** – Which one, you ask? I'll say *Rocky IV*, where Sly travels to Moscow, pummels a Soviet giant into a bloody pulp, and then drapes himself with the US flag. Oh, the patriotism I would have felt if I were an American! Stallone is a terrible actor, but Rocky Balboa was a great character.

8. ***Karate Kid*** – Come on now, who among us hasn't tried that kick thing on a log or bench, or recited "wax on, wax off" while washing the parent's minivan? Need I say more? Besides, Arnold from Happy Days was a seriously kick-ass sensei.

9. ***Major League*** – Charlie Sheen becomes the "Wild Thing" while pitching for the Cleveland Indians. Unfortunately, we now have to endure that song at every pro sports event. Wesley Snipes, Tom Berenger and Corbin Bernsen round out the cast of this fine movie, which is also chalk full of laughs.

10. ***Hoop Dreams*** – This is actually a documentary about two lads from an innercity Chicago shithole who dream about playing NCAA and NBA ball. The fimmakers followed the boys around for a few years, filming games, practices, home life... virtually everything. Any kid who's dreamed about playing a professional sport can identify with this film.

Honourable Mention: *Sideout* – Hey, it's a beach volleyball movie. It's what I'm talking about!

How about the worst sports movie made? Well, if we included any sequels, or films with animals, this list could go on forever. However, one specific film sticks in my cranium.

Rudy is a syrupy sweet movie about an undersized kid who goes to Notre Dame and makes the football squad in spite of overwhelming odds. Sound enticing? It's not. The final scene, where the whole stadium starts chanting his name, was absolutely pathetic.

Sean Astin is a hideous actor, and the thought of watching this movie again makes me want to recircumcise myself. The only good thing to come from this show is the nickname possibilities.

So there you have it. Obviously I haven't watched every sports movie made, so some worthy flicks may not have made it. I've heard from quite a few reliable sources that *The Natural* is brilliant, and a few fellows gave hearty accolades to the latest Denzel Washington movie, *Remember the Titans*. I might have to check them out in between shiny games this Christmas.

Regardless, any movie, sports-related or not, is only as good as the feelings it leaves inside you. So sit back, relax, pop that cassette in the VCR, and get ready to be dazzled.

CIAU Scores and Standings

B.C. Premier League Rugby

Saturday's Result, at Wallace Field (Victoria):

James Bay	**27**
Univ. Victoria	**13**

Upcoming Fixtures:
January 20: Graham Clark Memorial (at Centennial Stadium)

CIAU National Rankings
Women's Basketball

Last week's ranking in parenthesis

1. Victoria	**(1)**
2. Regina	(2)
3. Manitoba	(3)
4. Calgary	(4)
5. Winnipeg	(5)
6. SFU	(6)
7. Laurentian	(7)
8. Alberta	(8)
9. Laval	(10)
10. UBC	(9)

As of December 5, 2000

CIAU National Rankings
Men's Basketball

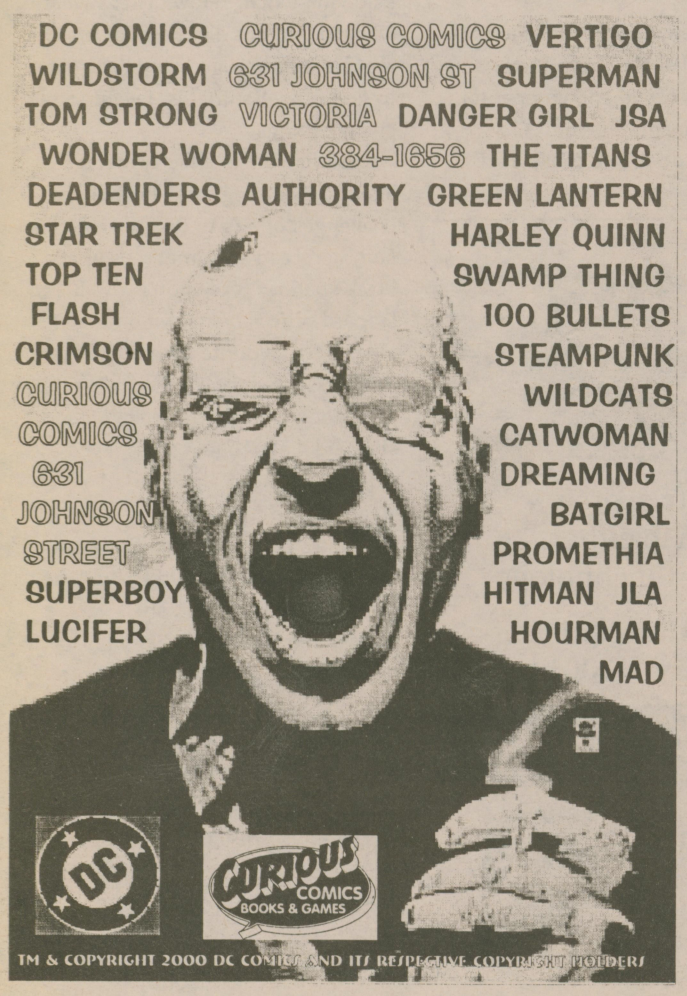
1. Western Ontario	(1)
2. St. Francis Xavier	(2)
3. Alberta	(3)
4. Carleton	(4)
5. McMaster	(5)
6. Brandon	(6)
7. Concordia	(7)
8. York	(8)
9. St. Mary's	(9)
10. Victoria	**(NR)**

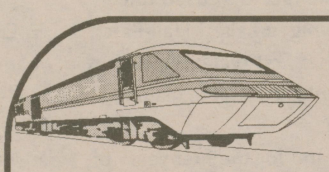
As of December 6, 2000

Sports quote of the day

"The important thing to recognize is that it takes a team, and the team ought to get credit for the wins and losses. Success has many fathers, failures have none."

–Philip Caldwell





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Cycling: Clare Hall-Patch: an athlete in profile

by Sandra Walter

It was fitness testing day at St. Michael's University School and the class was being subjected to the degrading "beep test."

Two lines were taped down on the gymnasium floor 20 metres apart. The object of the exercise was to run from line to line before pre-recorded beeps sounded. The gaps between beeps got shorter and shorter as the test went on.

Clare Hall-Patch remembers clearly that PE class in 1997. "I was left there running back and forth between the beeps. It's really disgusting," she said.

"The little jockette girls got their butts whipped by a little punk girl with hairy legs," said Hall-Patch. Her PE teacher demanded to know why she was so fit and Hall-Patch's friend let it slip that the little punk girl rode her bike a lot.

"Her eyes lit up like greedy little orbs," said Hall-Patch of her teacher. "You have to join the biking team," she was told.

And since the anti-jock needed to make up a few PE credits, she decided to join the team.

That was three years ago. Recently the 18-year-old Victoria native returned from the World Road Cycling Championships in Plouay, France with a bronze medal.

Her other accomplishments include the 1999 Junior National Mountain Bike title, a gold in the individual and team mountain bike events at the 1999 Western Canada Summer Games and a 10th place finish at the 1999 World Mountain Bike Championships.

Hall-Patch cannot understand how it all happened. "Until recently I never thought of myself as an athlete," she said. "It's been very hard to come to terms with that. My identity has never been as an athlete or as a cyclist, but it is [now]."

In 2000, plagued by an injury that put her out of commission for several months, she was forced to miss June's World Mountain Bike Championships in Spain. Resilient as ever, Hall-Patch bounced back with her breakthrough showing in France.

"I was really happy," she said on finishing third in the 70-kilometre road race. "That's what I [went there] to do and [it was] finally over."

"It was really interesting to see the Canadian flag go up there and think: 'Hey, that's for me.'"

******

Hall-Patch's attachment to biking goes back to her childhood. "Ever since I was really young I went for rides on my bike," she said. "I rode my bike to escape from just about everything."

Riding her bike is one way the cycling prodigy expresses herself; a way of releasing her emotions. "I didn't have a happy childhood. I didn't have a happy teenage-hood," she said. "You try to ride away from your problems, but in a way it works."

Without her family problems, Hall-Patch believes she wouldn't have had so many strong emotions to "ride off." And perhaps, without those emotions, she would never have become a successful cyclist.

"Everyone has a different way of expressing their feelings," she said. "Something about biking worked for me."

Hall-Patch's parents are a sore spot: "They gave me some money this year, which I really really appreciated. "[But] that's money. If we're talking emotionally [supportive] – my parents – no."

She remembers bitterly the parents of other young cyclists, driving their kids to races, cheering for them, just being there. Hers never did that.

"Them not being involved in my cycling is a two-way street," she admits. "At first they weren't supportive, but at the same time, I didn't want them to be a part of it. Cycling is mine."

****

Hall-Patch was encouraged to go into racing by the coach of her high school bike team, Alan Jones. The two remain in touch, going for rides from time to time. She credits him with jump starting her cycling career. "Alan was really integral," Hall-Patch said.

Starting at age 15, Hall-Patch began racing with the Victoria High School League. Once she'd gotten a taste, she didn't want to stop.

"[Jones] hooked me up with one of the entry forms for Burnt Bridge, a mountain bike race that used to be held by Shawnigan Lake," Hall-Patch said. It was her first real competition outside the inter-collegiate league, and she won.

That day, and for the first years of her career, she rode a $500 black Phoenix Dirtpig. "I got it for my 13th birthday and I rode it until almost my 16th birthday," she said. "I did eventually break it."

photo provided

Clare Hall-Patch (far right) celebrates her bronze medal performance at the World Road Cycling Championships with podium mates.

Last season Hall-Patch rode a $5000 titanium mountain bike donated by her sponsor, Norco.

It was only in 1999, the year she started competition training, that Hall-Patch's career began in earnest.

"I didn't think I'd be doing what I was doing," she said of her 1999 season. "I was [originally] trying to be the best junior woman in B.C. and I ended up trying to be the best in the world," she said, referring to her win at Nationals and subsequent qualification for the 1999 World Mountain Bike Championships.

*****

Hall-Patch only has two items in her bedroom that would reveal that her cycling proclivities.

One is a poster of the 1997 National Cycling Team. And while she tends to dispise such decorations, Hall-Patch decided to jazz it up a bit to make it more appropriate to her tastes.

"I cut out all [the National Team members'] heads and rearranged them," she said. "Kurt Harnett's head is on Alison Sydor's body. Lesley Tomlinson's head is on Kurt's body and the broad shoulders really don't suit her."

In fact, Hall-Patch is so against racing paraphernalia that she hid her 1999 Wheeler's Cycling Club Award for Most Promising Cyclist in the chimney for six months. Olympic Silver Medalist and former World Mountain Bike Champion Alison Sydor's name is also on that trophy, which now resides under her parents' bed.

"I couldn't stand it. I thought it was the most pretentious piece of crap I ever had. I didn't know what to do with it," she said.

****

Erica Drew, an accomplished 18-year-old cyclist also from Victoria, is Hall-Patch's friend and competitor. "She's confident. She thinks: if anyone can do it, she can," said Drew of Hall-Patch

Describing their arrival at the World Mountain Bike Championships in 1999, Drew noted that she and another teammate were jumping on the bed in their condo, yelling: "We're at Worlds!"

But, she said,"Clare was just sitting there, like, so what?

"She's very independent, very serious."

Hall-Patch concurs with the sentiments of her fellow racer. "No matter what I was doing with my life now, I'd need to travel. I'm dynamic. I need to move. I need to explore," said Hall-Patch. "I was born at the hospital three blocks from home. I've always lived in the same city, same house, same bedroom."

She loves that bike racing has given her the opportunity to travel. "A year and a half ago I'd never been on a plane," she said. Since then she's been all over Canada, the US, Europe and even to Bermuda.

Hall-Patch has travelled almost everywhere with the more experienced Drew. "She gives me a lot more motivation because she's so new at the [racing] scene," said Drew. "It doesn't seem like she should be so good so fast. She gives me motivation to train."

Hall-Patch isn't sure what's next. "There's the whole toaster pastry answer: Olympics, gold medal, blah, blah, blah," she said. "[But] really, I'd like to make enough money and reach enough people to be able to do all I want to do."

As for her future plans outside of biking, she said, "It's all pretty amorphous. I'd really like to go to Auschwitz."

"I want to affect people's lives," said Hall-Patch. "How? That's what I want to find out. I'm here for a reason and through living I'm going to find out what that is. I want to change things."

Hall-Patch has affected people already. By daring to be herself she challenges others to do the same. During races she sometimes wears black spandex bike shorts with fuzzy leopard print fabric sewn on the sides. Her favourite item of clothing, in fact, is a pair of worn army pants. "I'm not a typical private school girl," she said. Last August she shaved the sides of her head and sported a bleach-blond mohawk.

"She's not concerned about other people's opinions," said Drew. "She's very self-confident and she's very honest and loyal."

Hall-Patch feels the best way to describe herself is with the word contradiction. "That's me and it's true."

Biking has given "me the power to do the things with my life that I really want to do. It's an end in itself and a means to an end."

ICEHOUSE
SPECIAL EVENTS:
Sat. Dec. 9:
Blonde Redhead
with guests The Need
Tickets $12 in advance @ Lyles, Ditch & venue
Sat. Dec.16: Ska Show
Easy Big Fella
from Seattle with very special guests from SeattleThe Diablotones
Tickets $10 in advance @ Lyles, Ditch & venue
Easy Big Fella
Fri. Dec.22:
"The Little Drum n' Bass Boy" A Christmas Event Canada's #1 Drum n' Bass DJ.
Freaky Flow w/McFlipside
Tickets $12 in advance @ Styus, Lyles & Boomtown
student card holders discount
Call for event and ticket info 1961 Douglas St. 382-5853

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The GSS has received the generous donation of a very large mint-condition regulation snooker/billiards table.
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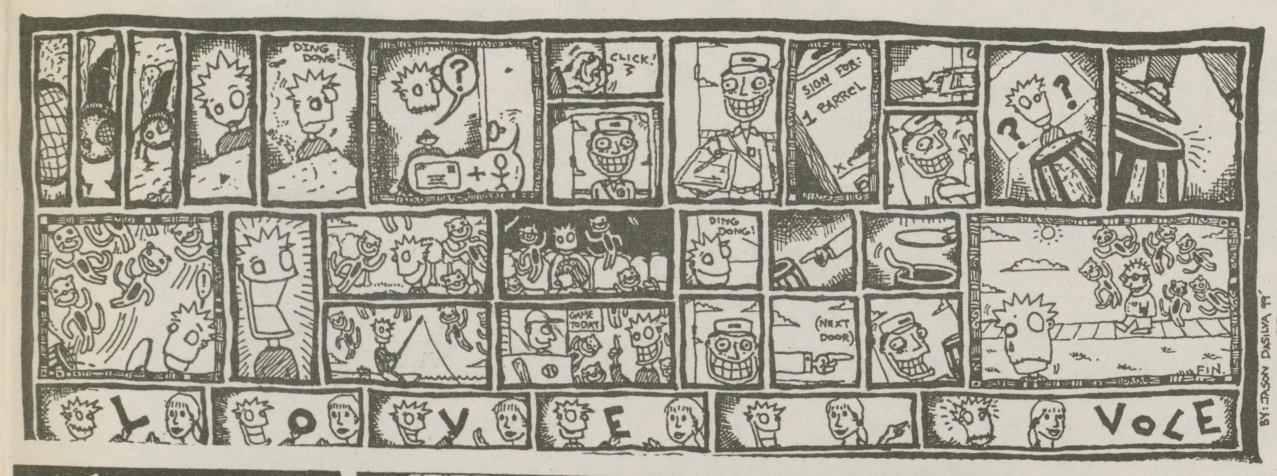

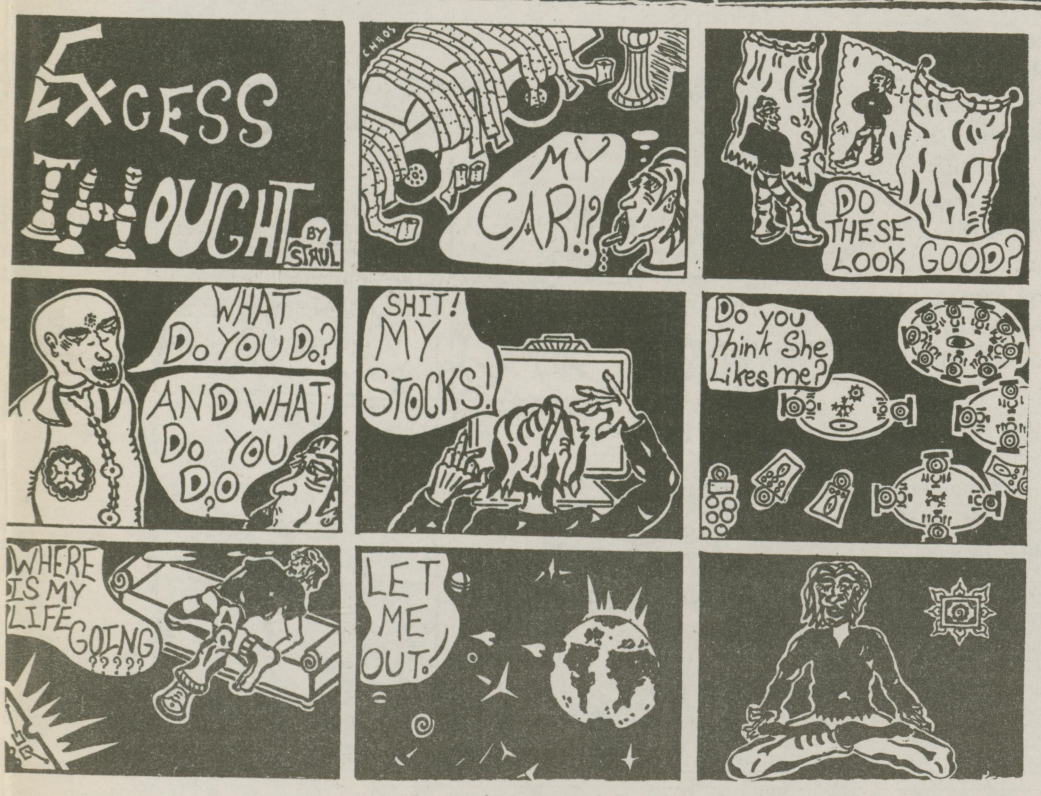

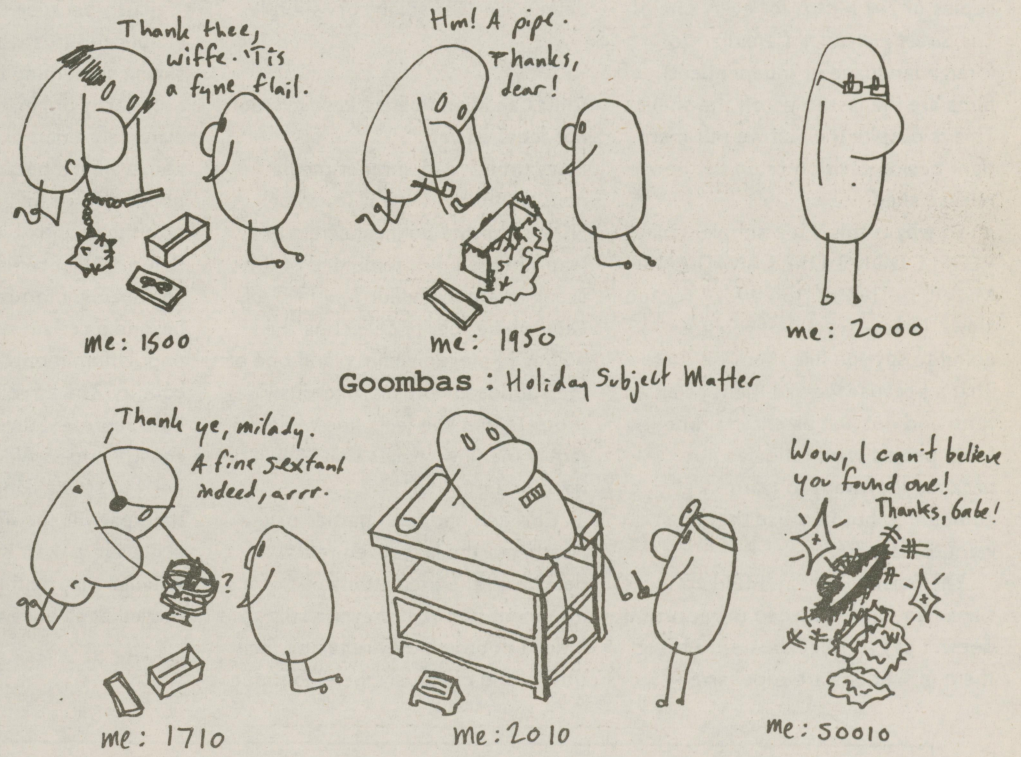
Thank thee, wiffe. 'Tis a fyne flail.
me: 1500
Hm! A pipe. Thanks, dear!
me: 1950
me: 2000
Goombas : Holiday Subject Matter
Thank ye, milady. A fine sextant indeed, arrr.
me: 1710
me: 2010
Wow, I can't believe you found one! Thanks, babe!
me: 50010

ON CAMPUS

The Chemistry Undergraduate Society would like to thank everyone who participated in the Silent Auction Fundraiser which was held between Nov. 20-24. We raised $900 for the *Times Colonist* Christmas Fund. The money will go towards assisting families in need this holiday season. We would especially like to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations: PacificSport, Craig X Indoor Climbing Centre, Running Room Canada, Kathryn Milner – Mary Kay, LaSenza, Milestone's Restaurant, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Aveda Environmental Lifestyle Store, The Blethering Place, Miniature World, Margo Stephens, Cecconi's Trattoria, Fifth Street Bar & Woodfire Grill, Royal London Wax Museum, Undersea Gardens, 360° Boardshop, Ditch Records and CD's, Lyle's Place, Roland Gendron, The Cheesecake Café, Roger's Chocolate, Boston Pizza, Crystal Garden, Roger's Video, Patisserie Daniel, Todd Sutherland, John Cole and Larry Lee. Thank you to all the members of the Chemistry Undergraduate Students' Society who assisted with this event – your help was much appreciated.

Having trouble sorting out your problems? See the UVSS Ombudsperson. SUB B205. Call 721-8357 or e-mail ombuddy@uvic.ca

"Ring-Out" the week with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship every Friday night! Everyone is welcome to join us for Praise, Worship, Singing, Prayer, Fellowship and Teaching! Have a Bible? Bring it! See you Friday nights for Ring-Out in Cle C 112 at 7:30 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS

Civic Orchestra of Victoria presents *Postcards from Vienna: Happy Holidays!* **Dec. 9**, 8 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral (Quadra at Burdett). $12 adults/$8 students – children under 12 free. Tickets at Ward Music, Bolen Books, Munro's, Larsen Music, Tanner's (Sidney) and Ivy's (Oak Bay). Call 658-3304 for info.

Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level. Next topic Wisdom: Who do you consider wise? Do the wise use judgement or avoid it? How does one become wise? **Wed. Dec. 13** at 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 20** topic: God. What does God mean to you? Do you believe in a divine being? How does the Spirit move you? De Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St.), Cover $4/$3 for students. **"Food for Thought"** pre-session starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Michael Picard, Ph.D., at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

VOLUNTEERS

Sharpen your writing skills by joining the Victoria School of Writing Press Release Committee. This is a great volunteer credit to add to your resume. Starts in January. Contact Michelle at 995-2882 if you want to make a positive contribution to the writing community.

Calling all film lovers! The Victoria Independent Film & Video Festival is gearing up for its Seventh Annual Festival! Interested in becoming a part of a fun team of volunteers? Call Nathalie at 389-0444 or come to an info meeting at #101-610 Johnson St. on Mon., **Dec. 18**, 7:30 p.m.

Give an early Christmas gift or make an early New Year's resolution! Use your experience to help someone get more out of life! Recreation Integration Victoria is looking for male volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. To get involved or for more info, call Mark at 477-6314.

TUTORS

Experienced qualified friendly ESL tutor. www3.telus.net/smarttutor/ **English/Philosophy**. Essay critique, proofreading, assignment discussion, etc. Enjoy learning but need a little assistance to fulfill your potential? I can help. Call Janet at 595-8438.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember to consign your books at Subtext! From now until **28 Feb**. 2001! Come early to avoid the rush.

Sock Drive! Help the homeless! Fill a sock with personal care items and drop it off into one of the boxes located in MacLaurin, Clearihue, Cunningham and Classroom buildings. Socks will be delivered to the Streetlink Emergency Shelter and the Sandy Merriman Women's Shelter.

Records Services wants your "Mailing Address." For information and instructions check your address on Webview (www.uvic.ca/reco) before **Dec. 15**.

Pottery Classes available. Six 2.5 hour classes, $140 + GST. Call 383-5446 for more details.

FOR SALE

Ink cartridges refilled from $4.95 to $14.95. Mayfair Mall (by Toys-R-Us). Island Ink-Jet, 381-9583.

Double futon/bed/couch for sale. $100 o.b.o. Phone 995-0255 (home) or 356-5313 (work).

HELP WANTED

Computer tech student wanted for work. Project experience – wages. Call Jerome at 370-9490.

You want to teach English overseas: 140 minutes of information, advice, help and suggestions for new or experienced teachers. Two audio tapes and book of grammar etc. written by a master teacher. $25, available at the UVic Bookstore, Linguistics, or maggiewarbey@saltspring.com

Travel – teach English. 5 day/40 hr **(May 16-20)** TESOL teacher cert. course (or by correspondence). 1,000s of jobs available NOW. Free info pack, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

HEY YOU

Hey Aveda Boy – Thanks for the invite and the samples. Rock the casbar, you cutie pie!

The goddess herself has this to say: *Honey pie, you are making me crazy / I'm in love but I'm lazy / So won't you please come home...*

The Sweet Rose Suite is eagerly anticipating entertaining Saturday. Be there, or be square!

Inkberry: Wallace & Gromit was a month ago tomorrow? It's still all good... but will your mom think I'm too posh? - Frans

Frans a.k.a Posh: So what I hear you saying is that you're going to move to the 22nd floor, oui? - Inkberry

B & E: Happy Birthday! Luv B–S

Satan: Who says I should give up? Would you?

We always miss you because of the inconvenient date you were born, so... Happy early 'b' day from the whole M crew. xoxo

Sorry Randy, we'll meet another time. dk

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines
hey you!	$1/issue

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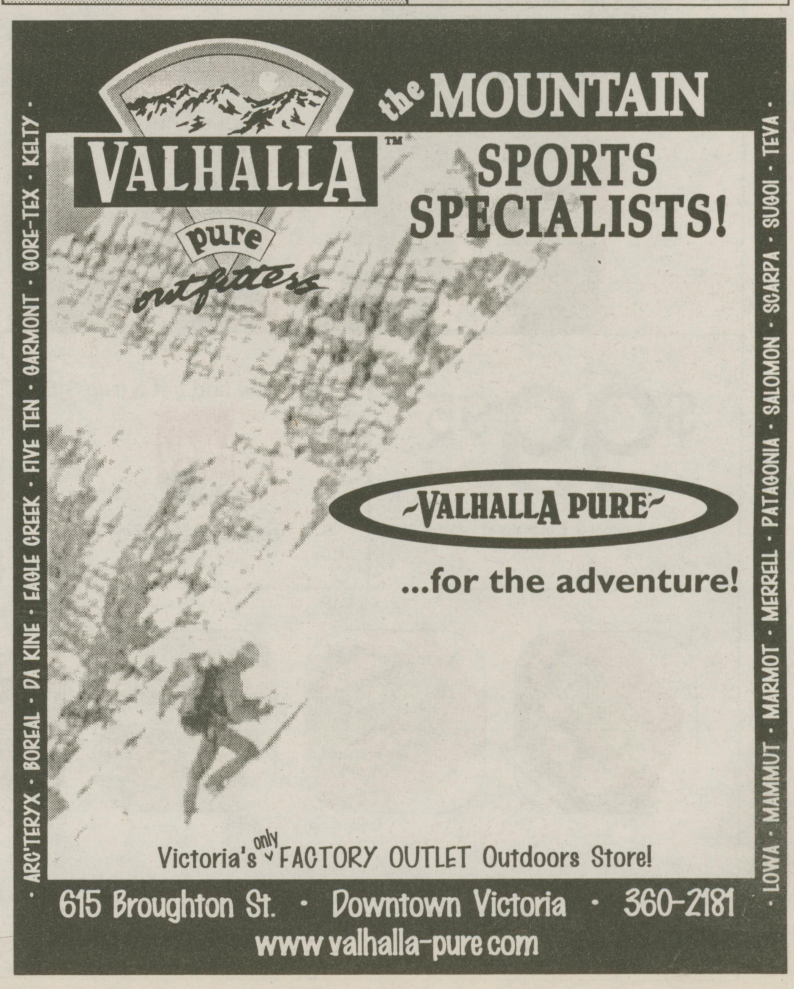
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LETTERS:

Canadian films just too "artsy"

H. Maurice Raper, in the Nov. 30 issue of *the Barnacle*, complains that the lack of Canadian-made films in our local video stores has something to do with said stores "being under American control." This is a major misunderstanding of the problem.

I work at a small, locally owned video store. It probably rents out ten copies of *The Matrix* for every one of *The Sweet Hereafter*, Canadian (or foreign language or independent) films are the last to go off the shelf. This is despite the fact we put them right beside each other on the new release shelf.

So why is this? It's simple, really. PEOPLE DON'T LIKE CANADIAN MOVIES. They're "too artsy," or "too slow." I know several of you are going to say you like them – I do too. That's because we like them as an art form and not just as entertainment. Most people watch movies not because they want to learn something, but because they "just want to have fun."

The reason you can't find Canadian films on video is because it doesn't pay for Blockbuster to bring them in. Videos are expensive – usually $60-100 when they first come out. The issue is not one of American control, it's one of the public's taste.

And, by the way, you find Canadian movies in the foreign section because most video stores hire people who have no idea what a Canadian video is. It doesn't help that video box covers always hide details like "Canadian" or "subtitle."

Jason Tudor

CPR: Canadian Politics Resuscitation not required yet

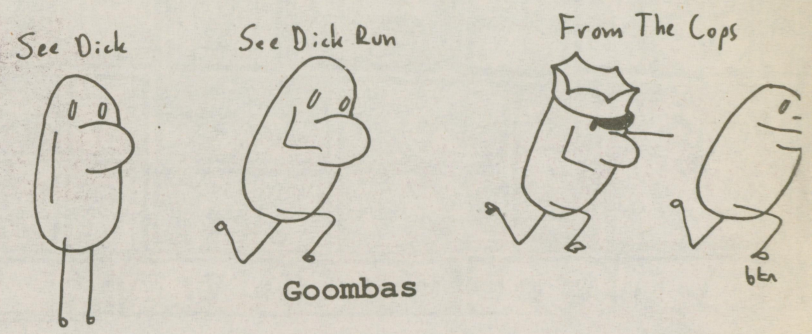
Every time I read another media obituary for the federal Tories or NDP or for the political career of Jean Chretien, I'm reminded of the scene in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* where they're collecting the bodies of plague victims, and one of the supposed corpses vigorously protests that she feels fine while a family member insists that "She'll be dead in a minute!"

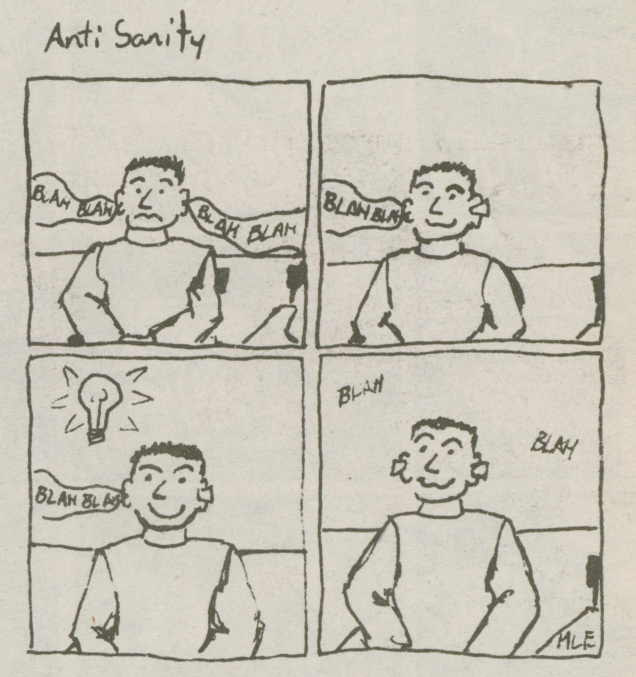
Chretien and both parties have weathered the last seven years despite all the predictions of imminent doom. If they are still indeed doomed, they're taking their time – and obviously there continue to be a few twitches once in a while, like a seat in Ontario for the NDP, a seat in Alberta for the Tories, or an increased majority for Mr. Chrétien. In short, what remains is for voters to catch up and realize what the media have known for a long time.

Why, then, is our political landscape populated by so many seeming zombies?

Partly because they are either affable and trustworthy like Joe Clark, saying something that is different if not exactly original like the NDP, or extremely smart like Chrétien. But above all, it's because the "new" political force that was supposed to take the country by storm, the Reform/Alliance Party, hasn't made a convincing effort to appeal to anyone beyond a certain segment of the population in only one region of the country. The three traditional parties have representatives from coast to coast. Perhaps Alliance supporters need to start asking themselves if their party is the right vehicle for achieving power. Because while the Alliance may be thriving, it's hardly moved at all in seven years.

Scott Waters





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